FBIS DAILY REPORT

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NINTH SELA MEETING OPENS IN CARACAS 19 SEP

PA200120 Paris AFP in Spanish 2346 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Text] Caracas, 19 Sep (AFP) -- Five Latin American foreign ministers and a dozen ministers and personalities of the region are participating in the ninth SELA meeting that opened today in Caracas.

Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo is chairing the meeting, which will last until Wednesday. It was announced that the meeting is also being attended by his colleagues Bernardo Sepulveda of Mexico, Augusto Vega Imbert of the Dominican Republic, Andrade Diaz-Duran of Guatemala, and Jose Alberto Zambrano of Venezuela.

Economy ministers of the area who will participate are Kendrick Radix of Grenada, R. St John of Barbados, Henry Ruiz of Cuba [as received], Edmundo Jarquin of Nicaragua, Ivan Rivera of Peru, Jose Menalco Solis of Panama, and Hernan Soriano of Venezuela.

Also participating are Fernando Berrocal, minister of the presidency of Costa Rica; L.E. Alibux, prime minister of Suriname, and Enrique Iglesias, ECLA executive secretary.

Lloreda Cited on Peace Treaty

FL202052 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1808 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Text] Rodrigo Lloredo Caicedo, Colombia's minister of foreign affairs, said in Caracas, site of the ninth SELA meeting, that the last meeting of the Contadora Group with the foreign ministers of Central America may be the source of a peace treaty for the region.

In statements to the Venezuelan newspaper EL NACIONAL, Lloreda Caicedo said that a document is currently under consideration which, if approved, would facilitate the preparation of a peace treaty and permanent legal instruments.

After reiterating his optimism concerning the efforts of the Contadora Group, he noted that, if the document discussed in Panama earlier this month by the nine foreign ministers of the area were to be adopted by the [Central American] governments after careful consideration, it would open the prospect of initiating immediate negotiations. He said the document had not been made public.

Sepulveda on Mexican Position

FL201705 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0610 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Text] Caracas, 19 Sep (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor said today that the capacity for self-determination and the possibility of achieving peace without foreign interference are at stake in Central America. He added that the Contadora Group has been a deterrent in the area.

In his participation at the ninth SELA meeting, Sepulveda Amor emphasized that the Latin American countries know that their capacity for self-determination is in the balance in Central America -- ideological and political pluralism and the possibility of achieving peace, stability, and justice without foreign interference.

He said that at various times in the regional crisis the Contadora Group has been a deterrent factor and has very probably helped to prevent the outbreak of a conflagration that would have incalculable consequences for the entire region.

He pointed out that the dialogue among the Central American governments has become possible after years of interruption and that initial compromises have been achieved that could in the near future lessen the tension and create a climate of security and mutual confidence that are essential for peace.

Earlier the foreign secretary had referred to the international economic crisis, which he labeled as deep and erosive, and a test of our capacity to respond with coordinated action, effective cooperation, and productive political imagination.

He said that this crisis aggravates the lack of self-sufficiency of the countries, increases the lack of equilibrium, and frustrates the individual and collective expectations with the inevitable consequence of nonconformity and tension.

Referring to this phenomenon in Latin America, Sepulveda Amor cited as irrefutable proof of this the fact that the gross national product has stopped growing, outpaced by the population growth and the increase of the balance of payments of the countries in the region and the increase of their foreign indebtedness.

He added that servicing the foreign debt requires greater resources and absorbs a high proportion of the income from exports. Every percentage point of increase in the interest rates on the international capital markets represents a large additional transfer of foreign exchange abroad.

Prolonged recession, persistent inflation, and a shortage of funds for development with social justice are, he said, the expression of an international economic system that resists change to respond to the inevitable evolution of the world's countries.

He said that parallel to the crisis in the world's economic relations is the threat of reemergence of the cold war, and in the face of the indifference to the demands for peace and justice by the majority of the peoples, the tendency toward economic domination, political hegemony, and ideological uniformity seems to grow stronger.

The maturity of the Latin American peoples, he said, indicates that active solidarity, rather than a political ideal, is a requirement for independence and development.

In this respect Sepulveda Amor cited, in the economic field, the recent renewal of the San Jose Pact (Mexico and Venezuela) for oil cooperation with the countries of Central America and the Caribbean, and, in the political area, the fact that the Malvinas conflict revitalized the best sentiments of solidarity and independence of the region.

He also emphasized the capacity for initiative, negotiation, and solidarity among the Latin American countries with regard to the Central American conflict.

Sepulveda Amor urged that more effective action be taken to establish the dimensions of Latin American cooperation with Central America, which would contribute to a more adequate mobilization of aid from outside the region -- financial resources for development programs and greater access for Central America's export products to the international markets, among others.

Regarding Mexico, the foreign secretary said that the immediate economic recovery program has begun to show favorable results. The most severe symptons of the crisis have been solved, he said, and we have initiated a process of reconstruction and advance that we expect to be gradual but consistent.

He said that the fundamental task of the ninth SELA meeting is to make progress toward the definition of Latin America's response to the crisis, which must be imaginative, realistic, and based on solidarity. This response, he said, must be viewed within the framework of the vast prospects of regional economic security based on the political will of the region to decrease its foreign vulnerability and strengthen its autonomous development.

COMMISSION ASKS TRIAL OF FALKLANDS WAR OFFICERS

PY202252 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2220 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Sep (NA) -- At least 14 high-ranking officers and chiefs of the three branches of the Armed Forces will reportedly be sent to trial by the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces for their performance during the Malvinas war, according to a report of the Interforces Commission that will be handed over on Friday to the Military Junta.

The only civilian to face charges is former Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez. Contrary to the rumors that have been circulating, no charges have been brought against former Economy Minister Roberto Alemann.

Reliable sources told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that the decision does not question nor does it criticize the decision to recover the sovereignty over the South Atlantic islands.

According to what has been learned, the officers who will be tried by the Supreme Council, among others, are:

Lieutenant General Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri, Army commander and president of the nation.
Admiral Jorge Isaac Anaya, commander in chief of the Navy.
Lieutenant General Basilio Lami Dozo, commander in chief of the Air Force.
Vice Admiral Jose Maria Lombardo, commander of the South Atlantic Theater of Operations [TOAS].
Major General Osvaldo Jorge Garcia, V Corps commander, and also commander of the Theater of Operations.
Vice Admiral Leopoldo Suarez del Cerro, chief of the joint staff.
Brigadier General Mario Benjamin Menendez, the Army's chief of operations and military governor of the Malvinas.
Brigadier General Oscar Luis Jofre, commander of the 3d Mechanized Infantry Brigade.
Brigadier General Omar Edgardo Parada, commander of the 3d Infantry Brigade.
Air Force Major General Helmut Conrado Weber, Strategic Air Command (CAE).
Air Force Colonel Wilson Pedroza, commander of the Puerto Darwin Air Force Garrison.

In addition, one lieutenant colonel, the commander of the 5th Infantry Regiment, and two Navy officers -- one of them the famous Navy Captain Adolfo Astiz -- who were on the Georgia Islands and who are currently under military inquiry, must be added to the list.

The sources have stressed that in several cases the bringing to trial of military commanders that participated in the war is more a consequence of the severity of the Code of Military Justice and its lack of rules and regulations regarding modern warfare than the result of actual mistakes committed by the individual while in a position of command.

The case of the then Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Pedroza, who has since been promoted to colonel, has been cited as an example. He was the senior officer in the Darwin area, and he should have taken charge of the members of the Armed Forces and should be held responsible for the surrender to the British.

The Military Code of Justice indicates that he must be brought to trial because at the time of his surrender he had not lost two thirds of his men nor had he run out of ammunition.

LUDER ADVOCATES INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY

PY201642 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2320 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Sep (TELAM) -- Italo Argentino Luder, presidential hopeful for the Justicialist Party, has said that if he should make it to Government House, Argentine foreign policy will continue to be independent, realistic, and pragmatic. He has also pointed out that it should service the country's interests.

In statements made during a program broadcast by Radio America, during which he dwelled on Argentine foreign policy, Luder pointed out that it is indispensable to restore our relations with the United States.

The Justicialist leader stated that we cannot live with the trauma of the Malvinas as an ingredient of our foreign policy if it does not serve our interests. He added that since we are economically linked to the United States, the future constitutional government should restore our relationship with that country.

Referring to the conflict over the Beagle Channel, Luder stated that we are going to inherit this problem as well as the other problems of the country. He added that "we believe that papal mediation is the best way to continue negotiating a peaceful solution between Argentina and Chile."

Referring to Argentina's presence in the Nonaligned Movement, Luder stated that at present these countries could support objectives which Argentina is interested in at international forums. He quoted one of General Peron's statements that there are no permanent friends but only common interests in a foreign policy.

He added: "We must admit that we are a developing country and that the East-West dialogue no longer serves our interests. Rather, Argentina should take the North-South dialogue into account in the future.

He ended by pointing out that in Argentina there is talk of a South-South dialogue. The purpose of this dialogue is to strengthen common interests with countries at the same developmental level.

COMMITTEE DRAWS UP MEASURES FOR CONGRESS

PY182354 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 18 Sep 83 p 17

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Sep (NA-DYN) -- The Permanent Assembly for Human Rights (APDH) called on the country's political cultural, union, and religious sectors to work towards "a real democracy that will guarantee the respect for life and the rights of the individual" in a statement issued yesterday at the closing of an all-day National Assembly for Democracy.

Headed by APDH co-chairmen Alfredo Bravo and Eduardo Pimentel, the assembly was attended by representatives of human rights groups, politicians, unionists and numerous personalities of the country's cultural life as well as the general public.

"The so-called 'process' leaves to the future government and to all Argentines the most serious, chaotic and threatening situation this country has ever been in," the assembly's final statement said.

During these past seven years, Argentinaes have had "no voice, no information, no rights and no safety," it said, blasting the government for "maintaining the state of siege and a repressive machinery that functions with total impunity with less than 45 days to go for elections."

The assembly called on "people and their leaders" to fight against the passing of the government's proposed "self-amnesty, a project that has been rejected by virtually every sector of society." It also drew up a list of concrete measures to be put forward for discussion to the future Congress.

The disappearance of people should be considered an "inadmissible crime against humanity."

Punishment for torture and irregular proceedings should be made more severe.

Regulations should be passed establishing a limit to the time a person may be held under preventive arrest.

Prison regulations ought to be modified.

Sentences imposed on civilians by military courts should be annulled.

The entire judiciary should be replaced by constitutionally appointed judges.

The statement was signed by several human rights campaigners, including Nobel Peace Prize winner Adolfo Perez Esquivel, Bishops Jaime de Nevares and Miguel Hesayne, Radical presidential candidate Raul Alfonsin, Christian Democrat congressional candidate Auguste Conte McDonnel and several Intransigent and Socialist Party leaders.

EMBALSE NUCLEAR PLANT OPERATING AT FULL PACE

PY160325 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0115 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Sep (NA) -- The National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA) has reported that the Embalse nuclear plant, which is located in Cordoba Province, operated at full capacity today, in one of its last testing periods. Its output reached 600 megawatts.

The testing period of the Embalse plant, which has a reactor using heavy water as coolant and moderator, will end soon.

The plant's net nominal capaicty is 600 megawatts; it is built by an Italian-Canadian joint venture in which the CNEA and Argentine nuclear engineering companies played a major role.

The connection of the Embalse plant to the national system will raise Argentina's nuclear generating capacity, which includes the Atucha I nuclear plant output, to 935 megawatts.

COMMUNIST MINISTER DISCUSSES GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

PY201852 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Text] The pro-Soviet Communist ministers have said that they joined the current government because the Popular and Democratic Unity [UDP] represents the will of the people and because their economic, political, and social programs are part of the UDP plan. These remarks were made during a press conference by Ramiro Barrenechea, minister of labor and labor development.

[Begin Barrenechea recording] I would like to affirm categorically that this is a UDP government, with a UDP program and popular support. Those of us who joined this cabinet are fully aware that this is a UDP government with a UDP economic, political, social, and cultural program, and I reiterate that this is a popular program. [end recording]

The minister indicated to reporters that the pro-Soviet Bolivian Communist Party has submitted to the government an alternative proposal to overcome the current economic crisis.

Barrenechea said: [Begin Barrenechea recording] The Communist ministers made a proposal -- in a document delivered by our party leadership to the president and the UDP -- for discussing the economic measures needed to readjust our national economic process. During the first cabinet session a decision was made that economic measures would be discussed based on a political decision adopted at the UDP level, because this is a UDP government. Naturally, the ideas of the UDP members submitted to the presidency were used as a basis for the economic proposals to the cabinet. [end recording]

On conclusion, Ramiro Barrenechea, minister of labor and labor development, said that the three basic points of the alternative economic proposal are economic reactivation and production, the definition of a food supply policy, and the strengthening of the government sector.

PEASANT ORGANIZATION NAMES REPRESENTATIVE

PY201647 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Excerpt] Information Minister Mario Rueda has reported that (Hipolito Llanque) has been appointed peasant representative to the Presidential Legal Office for Agrarian Matters.

[Begin Rueda recording] At the special request of President Hernan Siles Zuazo, the Sole Central Organization of Bolivian Peasants [CUTCB] has appointed (Hipolito Llanque) peasant representative to the Presidential Legal Office for Agrarian Matters. As the CUTCB representative, he will have the mission of supervising agrarian matters before the presidency. Through this appointment, the president has again shown his willingness to have peasants participate in the government, particularly on agrarian issues before the presidency. [end recording]

CARDINAL INTERVIEWED ON POLITICS, PROBLEMS

PY200303 Rio de Janiero O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 Sep 83 p 8

[Interview granted by Brazilian Primate Cardinal Avelar Brandao Vilela to O GLOBO correspondent Renato Pinheiro in Salvador, Bahia, on 17 September]

[Excerpts] [Pinheiro] The country is going through an economic, political, and social crisis worsened by natural calamities in the north and the south, as well as by unemployment, urban violence, and looting. How does the church view this crisis, and what would its role be in it?

[Vilela] The church would have liked to see Brazil in a situation fitting its extraordinary potential, which is capable of opening horizons for an entirely different stage of living conditions. It would have liked not to see the country going through such an acute crisis, such a complex situation. Unfortunately, we are facing such a difficult situation that it constitutes a real historical crossroad. No one knows what may happen tomorrow, because so many problems have accumulated, difficulties have piled up, and challenged confront us. The abyss which has been dug is so deep that we find ourselves in a situation fraught with perplexities and questions. And the worst of it all is that we cannot see clear lines of political, social, and economic action capable of providing tranquillity.

[Pinheiro] And to what can this crisis situation be attributed?

[Vilela] I believe that, in addition to the repercussions of the international crisis in Brazil and the negative effects of it, there was an excess of optimism previously, and a lack of ability and competence to foresee the danger at the appropriate time, to warn the nation against the looming danger, and to adopt adequate measure at a right time. This was a serious error, because it caused Brazilians to be taken by surprise in the face of the new situation. Perhaps out of a reluctance to say that things were going badly, no objective information was provided at the right time, and so we are now staring at a difficult situation from which we cannot clearly see a way out.

[Pinheiro] Do you believe that the military's return to their barracks is enough to solve the crisis?

[Vilela] No, at this time, it is not enough. The decision of the military to return to their specific mission after having made their contribution to the nation is important, and from there to keep watch over the country's political problems. I can only praise the Armed Forces' return to the barracks, to stay there as the nation's guarding forces, thus fulfilling their constitutional role. But I believe that their return is not enough at this time to solve the problems Brazil is facing.

[Pinheiro] What could then solve the problem? What kind of changes would you propose?

[Vilela] I am not a politician, and should not speak as a politician. I do have political sensibility, as every Brazilian should have, because that sensibility is essential to any responsible human being. I am concerned about politics in as much as it is an instrument of the common good. I speak not as a politician, but as a pastor who is not isolated in an ivory tower, who follows the march of the people of God down the road of history. Therefore, I can see that the country is going through political period in which acute signs of weariness can be noticed.

[Pinheiro] What should be changed to come out of what you call weariness?

[Vilela] I believe that we should not go for solutions implying radical changes, and even less for a type of change which may seem dictated by diametrically opposed, ideologically predetermined positions, attempting to bring about some sort of counter-revolution with all the consequences it may entail. But I am sure that our problems will not be solved through small readjustments. Small readjustments in a machinery which is in bad disrepair will resolve absolutely nothing. A real change in behavior, a real change in political vision, is needed in Brazil. Serious mistakes have been made to bring us to the situation in which we find ourselves. Therefore, there must be fundamental changes in philosophy and behavior, without creating a situation of revanchism in the country. Revanchism must be avoided.

[Pinheiro] The nation's president has initiated consultations which he intends to make as broad as possible in steering the presidential succession process. Do you believe that the church should also be consulted as one of the representative sectors of Brazilian society?

[Vilela] Yes, along the lines of establishing criteria for presidential succession, and of listening to opinions about such criteria, I believe that the church can be listened to. The church officially would not take a position regarding any individual. In private, one prelate or another may have his position, his option. This is natural, but the church as an institution will not take any preestablished position, rallying behind a particular candidate. But consulting the church on criteria to be followed in making the choice is, I believe, fitting to the church's positon of political noninvolvement, to its moral responsibility in Brazil's current situation. Yet there is another aspect that needs to be pointed out regarding the presidential succession. Since this problem is drawing so much attention, it should not be allowed to act as an an anesthetic, diverting debate from other fundamental problems in the country; it should not be allowed to overshadow our real situation, because any attempt to do so would be dangerous.

GOVERNMENT PONDERS AIR FORCE PERSONNEL INCREASE

PY210252 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 16 Sep 83 p 5

[Excerpts] Brasilia -- Almost a year after submitting to the Military Household of the Presidency the bill requesting an increase in the number of personnel, the aeronautics minister yesterday received the authorization to increase by 20,276 the number of personnel, distributed in the following manner: 1,676 officers and 18,700 soldiers. This implies an increase in expenditures up to 1991, the deadline established for the end of the new increase in personnel program, of 20,096,756,880 cruzeiros, at current prices.

The bill requesting the increase in the aeronautics personnel was forwarded yesterday to the national Congress by the president of the republic. In the list of reasons which was attached to the bill, Aeronautics Minister Delio Jardim de Mattos justified the measure arguing that the establishment of the 2d Integrated Air Defense and Air Traffic Control in the southern region of the country; the creation and establishment of the VII Regional Air Command, in Manaus; and the construction of air bases in Boavista [Roraima territory] and in Porto Velho [Rondonia state], will demand the requisition of "yet nonexistent personnel of the Brazilian Air Force [FAB]."
If the national Congress approves the request, the FAB's personnel will increase from 50,679 to 71,055 men, divided into 7,655 officers and 63,400 soldiers.

LABOR LEADER SEGUEL RELEASED FROM PRISON

PY202305 Santiago Radio Agricultura in Spanish 2230 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Excerpt] We are now making contact with [name indistinct] Sandoval, who is returning from the court. [Begin relay] From the court, I went to the prison to follow the procedures for the release of Rodolfo Seguel, president of the Copper Workers Confederation. Exactly 7 minutes ago, Seguel was set free and left prison after being detained for 12 days during which he maintained a hunger strike. [end relay]

Archbishop's Intervention Cited

PY201357 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Relay from Government House by Graciela Contreras]

[Text] President Pinochet has ordered the lifting of charges against union leader Rodolfo Seguel, who was charged with slander against the head of state. This information has been disclosed through a communique issued by the Interior Ministry. It states that Santiago Archbishop Juan Francisco Fresno had requested that his excellency, the president of the republic, pardon Rodolfo Seguel, who was indicted by the Court of Justice and charged with slander against the chief of state.

Msgr Fresno stated that he had received a letter from Seguel in which the latter asserted he never meant to (?offend) his excellency and that his statements were distorted.

As a special gesture to Msgr Fresno and acknowledging his note, the chief of state has ordered the Interior Ministry to request the Court of Justice to lift the charges against Seguel.

TERRORISTS BOMB GAS LINE; DAMAGE THREATENS AREA

PY202039 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Text] A terrorist attack staged against a gas pipeline has caused considerable damage in the Cuesta Barriga area. Carabineros reported that traffic was interrupted a few minutes after the attack; traffic conditions returned to normal at 1116 today. The local police decided to open the pipeline, which was damaged by a bomb blast, so that the liquid butane that was leaking would not catch fire. People living in the area were urgently evacuated.

During the attack, which took place at 2050 last night, unknown persons detonated a bomb at the pipeline, some 1,000 meters from the 68-A highway joining Padre Hurtado and (Curacabi), close to the 34 km marker.

The site where the bomb was detonated was examined by experts in order to establish the type and mechanism of the bomb. It was reported that a second bomb, which was placed some meters from the one that went off, had to be defused.

The (Chonacol) company, the owner of the gas pipeline, shut off the liquid butane line, because it is highly flammable and dangerous. After noon today, Carabineros reported that the situation returned to normal and that the pipeline was being repaired.

VALDES ADVOCATES POLITICAL, ECONOMIC CHANGES

PY201222 Paris AFP in Spanish 1541 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Santiago, 18 Sep (AFP) -- Gabriel Valdes, leader of the opposition Democratic Alliance, today stated that the current Chilean situation is serious and critical and that all Chileans, regardless of their ideals and as long as they are loyally democratic, must contribute to resolving this situation.

The current economic situation and the social crisis are the result of a disastrous economic policy that only an authoritarian regime could implement. There can be no solution without a profound political change, the former foreign minister of the Christian Democratic government of Eduardo Frei (1964-1970) stated in an interview published by the newspaper EL MERCURIO.

Valdes said that this was the proposal that brought together politicians of the right, center, and left, as members of the Alliance, to propose a program that may build a democratic system in the country.

Valdes added that we are not proposing the resignation of President General Augusto Pinochet as a condition for dialogue, but if we reach the point of electing a constituent assembly, we will have made progress in seeking an agreement.

He went on to say that within the Democratic Alliance we are absolutely in agreement, and we feel that the overwhelming majority of Chileans also agree that General Pinochet does not meet the requirements to conduct a democratization process. He added that the Alliance proposes a search for a person who may win the national consensus.

We have asked for a constitutent assembly because we feel that there is no other alternative but to return power to the people. The current constitution and the authorities have not won widespread consent, but have caused a progressive division, he stated.

He added that the Alliance demands quick elections to solve the political problem and to change the economic situation. He said that no solution has been found for the crucial problems of the economy -- the foreign debt and the excessive debt of the productive sector to the banking system which makes impossible the survival of the enterprises and creates a very high unemployment rate.

Valdes said that the economy must be reactivated to solve these problems, that currency is needed to achieve this, and that the bottlenecks must be broken in the external sector. This cannot be achieved with the current renegotiation of the foreign debt. The Alliance demands an international political solution which will only be possible, especially considering relations with the United States and Europe, if Chile returns to a democratic regime.

Therefore, he stated, a quick return to democracy is the solution to the economic problem and social tensions -- because it will pave the road for the participation of the people -- and the solution for the reunion of all Chileans.

Valdes stressed that the Democratic Alliance is ready to continue the dialogue for political change, but not a dialogue for adherence to a regime we consider responsible for the crisis and which has no desire to change.

Valdes stated: I have absolute faith in dialogue as an instrument of agreement among civilized persons. The other alternative is violence, which I categorically reject. Unfortunately, he added, violence is a possible alternative if the government persists in its arrogance of imposing its Constitution, its force, its economic model, and its threat of continuing for another 6 years. He said that violence is partly provoked by the government -- there is irrefutable proof -- and partly by extremism. Valdes said that violence has nothing to do with the days of national protest against the military regime, days which since May 1983 have tragically resulted in 60 deaths.

MIR LEADER INTERVIEWED ON INTENDANT'S DEATH

PA202038 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 8 Sep 83 p 14

[Report on interview with Ivan Fernandez, member of the Chilean MIR Central Directorate, by an unidentified reporter; date not given]

[Text] Santiago, (SE) [expansion not given] -- Ivan Fernandez, a member of the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] Central Directorate in Chile, has confirmed that a member of his organization was responsible for killing the mayor of Santiago. He said: "The execution of General Urzua has strengthened our people's struggle against the dictatorship." He added: "Our party's domestic-foreign directorate has announced that the execution was carried out by our organization's Miguel Henriquez squad."

Question: How does your organization view this action in light of the critical reactions by many groups, both in Chile and abroad?

Answer: In the first place, the large number of mourners who appeared at the general's funeral is remarkable. It is surprising because, undoubtedly, at least abroad, the number of mourners was far greater than those who raised their fists and voices after almost 50 people were murdered by the Armed Forces during the past 4 days of national protest, when hundreds of workers, students, and other civilians were under fire. We say this because General Urzua's execution cannot be understood outside the context of the permanent espression and mass murder conducted by the dictatorship. This specific case deals with the man responsible for repression in Santiago, since he, as mayor represented the Interior Ministry. In addition, an important part of the repressive forces that acted during the recent protests were dependent on him.

Question: Isn't it possible that this action might trigger further repression of the Chilean people?

Answer: Do you believe that there can be a greater degree of repression than that which we have lived under for the past 10 years, and particularly during the recent protests? Right now we are thinking about Ana Gomez, 21, who died after being shot by the military while on her own doorstep in the village of Jose Maria Caro; we are also thinking about the three sons of Marta Cano, 34, a resident of Conchali, who dies as a result of being shot in the head while inside her home; about the others who have died -- more than 30 -- and their families; about the 2,500 missing people and about those who have been murdered and tortured during these 10 years of dictatorship. For this reason, we say that General Urzua's execution is part of the response to which the people are justly entitled.

We do not advocate the master-slave relationship, by which the slave does not rebel against his master for fear of having the master increase the number of lashings he normally uses to keep his slaves in line. We are part of a worthy people who have shown their willingness to pay the necessary price for freedom.

This war on the Chilean people was brutally initiated by the Armed Forces and their supporters, who murdered Chile's constitutional president, Companero Salvador Allende, and thousands of fellow citizens. We are certain that this regime, which took office through murder and repression, will not leave because of simple pressure, no matter how hard it may be. We believe that it will be necessary to overthrow that government and that it must be faced on all fronts. Some think that the monopoly of arms must continue to lie with the reactionary Armed Forces, who have demonstrated many times in this century how easily they use those arms against their own people. We think otherwise. The Chilean people have the legitimate right to rebel and are beginning to exert that right in a wide variety of ways.

Dialogue and Opening

Question: But shouldn't one realize that General Urzua's death occurred during an opening and the start of a dialogue that might lead to democracy? Don't you believe that your action might stop this process?

Answer: In the first place, one must be specific in referring to any opening or dialogue. If we are dealing with the talks between the dictatorship's fascist Interior Minister Onofre Jarpa and Christian Democratic leaders, I tell you that this dialogue will never lead to democracy, if for no other reason than because the Chilean people, who have borne the burden during these 10 years of tyranny, are being left out. The truth is that it is a dialgoue among coupists: some, such as the Christian Democrats, are penitent; others continue to support the current regime's reactionary and anti-popular nature. We would do well not to forget that the Christian Democrats, including Frei, Zaldivar, and almost all the other Christian Democratic leaders, save four honorable exceptions, participated in the coup, supported it politically, and even defended it and explained it to the world in its initial period.

It is true that we believe men can change and we trust it is possible. However, we do not see any signs of real change in these Christian Democrats. They are continuing to promote the same rightist platform that brought them to power 20 years ago. The same drive for power that prompted Gabriel Valdes to offer himself as president of the republic following the murder of President Allende is once again evident as he tries, under a flase cloak of democracy, to assume the leadership of the opposition forces. We are very clear on this subject: The country's major problems will not be solved merely through a dialogue between the dictatorship and the Christian Democrats. They tend to create and foster false expectations and illusions that everything will change when in fact they do not intend to change anything.

Regarding the opening, the fact is that now, as in the entire history of our country, the people will not get anything for free. The fact that the dictatorship has been forced to permit the return of some exiles, who do not represent more than 5 percent of the total, and its announcement of a possible advance of the date for parliamentary elections, are nothing more than tricks to stop the antidictatorial popular mobilization of the masses.

The only real alternative is to overthrow the regime and to establish a true political, economic, and social democracy in the country. This is the only alternative. We support the overthrow of the dictatorship and the establishment of a democratic, national, popular, and revolutionary government that is able to solve the most pressing national problems by defending the people's interests. Many speak of the reconstruction of Chile, and urge all Chileans to make their greatest effort to bring the country out of its present situation. We say no to this, because the spree of 10 years of dictatorship, misery, and repression must first be paid for by those who held power and became rich: the big capitalists, the bankers, the monopolies, and the multinationals. In order to make that possible, we must call on our people to continue their mobilization and their struggle against the dictatorship.

Question: But won't such actions as the execution of General Urzua stop that popular drive and mobilization?

Answer: Those who may think that are 10 kilometers away in their office, playing fictional politics on the basis of hopes rather than reality. This is the view of those who are hesitant and typically express hopes for peaceful change and a gradual return to democracy. Obviously, such an argument is also used by those who want to limit popular mobilization and action in order to negotiate and maintain the monopoly of force in the hands of the current Armed Forces.

We dislike violence and love peace just as much as anyone else, but we cannot responsibly harbor false illusions or expectations which in the long run will bring more bloodshed and misery to our people. This is already understood by an important sector of the antidictatorial forces. That is why we are certain that the workers, students, and communities which faced Pinochet's Armed Forces during the protest rallies, and those who have resisted since the day of the coup, enthusiastically welcome the execution of the intendant-general, because it is a heavy blow to the dictatorship and serves as a warning that his crimes will not go unpunished. Today, it was the turn of one of our commandos, acting under better combat conditions, to express our people's desire for justice. Tomorrow, as the fighting advances, it shall be the people as a whole who will make a reality of their determination to overthrow the dictatorship in order to have bread, work, justice, and freedom.

BRIEFS

NEW OIL PLATFORM -- The National Petroleum Enterprise, ENAP, officially reported on 5 September tha the "position No 3" platform has begun operating. The platform will drill 12 wells in the Strait of Magallean under the "Costa Afuera" projects. As for oil production, it has been reported that on 31 July oil production totalled 52,159,200 cubic meters in the mainland and 125,793,400 cubic meters under the "Costa Afurea" project. [Excerpt] [Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 6 Sep 83 p 30 PY]

PEACE COMMISSION ON GUERRILLAS ACCEPTING AMNESTY

PA192220 Paris AFP in Spanish 1637 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Text] Bogota, 19 Sep (AFP) -- John Agudelo Rios, president of the Colombian Peace Commission, today revealed that some 1,500 Colombian guerrillas have accepted the amnesty granted on 20 November 1982.

The commission, which today celebrates its first anniversary since President Belisario Betancur's government created it to open a dialogue with the guerrillas, has carried out a series of contacts in search of peace in the country.

Agudelo Rios, on summing up the commission's efforts, said that "the confidential nature of the contacts and other activities of that (?body) prevent us from revealing some very important data."

"We can say that we have advanced quite a bit, and we are confident that in a very short time we will have arrived at the goal of creating a climate of peace and harmonious coexistence among Colombians," Agudelo Rios told AFP.

Betancur offered a "toast of honor" to the 40 members of the commission today at Narino Palace.

MURDERS REPORTED; M-19 MEMBER SEEKS AMNESTY

PA200414 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Text] Two citizens identified as Abelardo Flores Mejia and Melquiades Mejia Tala have been cruelly murdered in Bucaramanga by a group of unidentified persons who attached notes to their bodies, that said: They were executed because they belonged to the terrible band called the Stained Ones [Los Tiznados]. The murdered peasants were working on one of their properties located in the (Clarima) region, in the vicinity of the San Vicente de Chucuri municipality.

In Neiva, two members of the outlawed M-19 [19 April Movement] were killed in the last few hours in (Acevedo Huila) municipality by unidentified persons carrying modern arms, according to police in this part of Colombia. The victims were identified as Erisilio and Ancisar Vargas Barrero. They were shot with machineguns at point-blank range by criminals, who 10 minutes later fled in an unknown direction.

In Pereira, Jose Alirio Ceballos, Alias John, a member of M-19, to which he said he belonged for many years, has accepted amnesty. The guerrilla will receive the benefits that the government grants to all persons who return to everyday life after fighting for long periods in the Colombian mountains.

BRIEFS

OIL PRODUCTION FIGURES -- Colombian oil production for August registered an increase of 95,000 barrels, according to figures released by the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise, ECOPETROL. Crude production reached 153,373 barrels a day, up 3,173 from the 150,200 barrels previously registered. The country's overall oil production, according to statistics, is 4,601,190 barrels per month. [Summary] [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Sep 83 PA]

LIBERAL PARTY CONVENTION ENDORSES PRESIDENT

PY201631 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 19 Sep 83 p 12

[Excerpts] Yesterday the special national convention of the Liberal Party ratified Dr Joaquin Atilio Burgos as party president. The convention lifted the sanctions imposed on all party members, and it modified the party statutes. The organizers of the convention reported that the convention, which was held at the Espana movie theater, was attended by 873 party members.

The Liberal Party's executive board is: Dr Joaquin Atilio Burgos, president; Dr Tadeo Centurion Sostoa, first vice president; Professor Serviliano Alonso Peralta, second vice president; Camilio J. Melot Rodas, third vice president; Dr Carlos Ferreira Ibarra, secretary general; Emilio Vallejos Chenu, secretary of records; Augusto Caceres Carisimo, press and information secretary; Felix Oscar Guerreno, party affairs secretary; Dr Primo Antonio Segovia, social action secretary; Cesar Garcia Arce, treasurer; and Fausto Ribeiro, deputy treasurer. Garcia Arce stated that this executive board will be in office until 1985.

It was also reported that the executive board has 36 standing members, of which 14 are new.

The organizers of the convention reported that the convention, which had as a purpose giving legal status to the executive board of the Burgos-led faction, which opposes the Celauro-led faction of the party, cost over 1.8 million guaranies. The convention also decided to send a telegram to the central electoral board requesting the immediate recognition of the Burgos-led executive board and authorization for Bonifacio Bordon Soto to represent the party on the electoral board.

Liberal Party leaders stated that the special convention also modified many articles of the Liberal Party statutes "to democratize the party." Liberal Party members and supporters of the Burgos-led executive board filled the Espana movie theater yesterday.

EDITORIAL SEES OBSTACLES TO DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

PY210052 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 18 Sep 83 p 8

[Editorial: "Paraguayan Democracy"]

[Text] The national Constitution establishes in the Republic of Paraguay the republican system of representative, pluralistic, and multiparty democracy, with only three restrictions: Not to preach hatred among Paraguayans; not to incite class struggle; and not to promote dictatorships of any kind. We now want, however, to come down from the timeless height of fundamental principle and values to the ordinary level of their practical implementation in the broad arena of our national situation.

Democracy should be the common undertaking of all Paraguayans, but the obligation falls on the political parties to upgrade the elective authorities and to guide national politics.

With the cold objectivity of our analysis, from an independent standpoint, we can see that our political parties are characterized by either a coersively imposed conformity or by a divisive tendency which causes anarchy. In one case there is an obnoxious vertical obedience which stifles natural differences of opinion; and in the other case there is a distortion of the concept of what a political party should be in order to serve the common good.

Some kind of deformity in the high electoral court has taken us to extremes nobody wants: the granting or withdrawal of recognition and representativity through the workings of purely circumstancial interests which have caused so much damage to party organizations in our country.

The deficiency of an electoral law which does not adequately ensure the preparation of a permanent voter registration open to access by the political parties must also be taken into account, because such a deficiency has contributed to the fraudulent practice of suffrage, and to the subsequent questioning of electoral results.

Equal-time privileges for the use of radio and television are not provided as a means for direct contact between party leaders and the people in general, thus maintaining the citizenry in the limited knowledge of half-truths which are not conducive to the practice of democracy upon the foundation of a well-informed people.

Another factor which hinders the working of the democratic system is, on one side, the electoral nonparticipation of some legally recognized parties, and on the other side, the nonrecognition of undoubtedly democratic currents of opinion which are thus artificially excluded from the nation's civic affairs.

We have always been and will be against subversion and violence from any segment of the political spectrum. The continual enforcement of the state of siege can be justified to keep in line those manifestations of totalitarianism, but not so to permanently hobble the free action of democratic parties. The broad and unlimited application of the state of siege is stifling for society as a whole, unjustly penalizing the majority of society for the faults of the minority.

Paraguayan democracy is in need of fundamental corrections. We would like to soon be in the position to loudly say: "The Constitution no longer is a lifeless text, nor are its provisions empty promises. The independence of the branches of government, and the respect for personal life, honor, and property are lies no more. The political rights enshrined in the Constitution are not unreal fiction. The last solemn event in which the people peacefully exercised the right to elect their representatives in a dignified and independent manner, without the objectionable coercion by force which brings dishonor upon the elected, gives evidence of the truth in our affirmation that we have entered into a normal period of constitutional life."

The quotation above is part of the Message to Congress delivered by the illustrious General Bernardino Caballero [founder of the Colorado Party] on 1 April 1883.

We express this lofty thought to wish that democracy, understood as the government of the majority overseen by a minority, can be a reality in the constant process of improvement in our country.

BELAUNDE REJECTS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT

PY210143 Paris AFP in Spanish 1836 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Text] Lima, 20 Sep (AFP) -- The Peruvian Government has angrily rejected a denunciation by Amnesty International that hundreds of Indians have been murdered by the police and Armed Forces who are fighting in the Andean Department of Ayacucho against the Shining Path terrorist group. Amnesty International's denunciation -- the group is headquartered in London -- was learned here owing to an indiscretion of its office in Copenhagen, which published it several weeks ago, while awaiting an answer to a letter from the Peruvian Government. The letter was published today.

President Fernando Belaunde was so indignant over the denunciation that he declared the letter unacceptable, and added that he had thrown all letters from Amnesty International into the trash can. The president added that apparently there is a conspiracy abroad against the good image of Peru, with the complicity of some Peruvians, which motivates a number of false reports to be delivered to the delegates of Amnesty International and other organizations.

President Belaunde also categorically denied the reports released by Amnesty International, and explained that the forces that are fighting terrorism, under the command of General Clemente Noel, are operating with respect for human rights, even those of the extremists.

Moreover, several ministers, including Interior Minister Luis Percovich, also denied the accusation, and added that Amnesty International seems to be conducted by communists, because it almost never denounces violations of human rights in countries subscribing to the communist doctrime. They also accused Amnesty International of disliking democratic and republican governments, and added that the organization's denunciations that peasants are murdered by policemen and soldiers in complicity with landowners who are hoping for the abolishment of the agrarian reform are groundless.

The agrarian reform, which ended the large landed estates, has been implemented by the previous military regime since 1969, in virtue of a law which allowed the distribution of approximately 11 million hectares of farm land among cooperatives, associations, and families.

As the storm unleashed by Amnesty International, which published here a paid advertisement demanding a specific answer from the government, passed, a new one began, due to the denunciation made by some political leaders of the opposition on a television program on missing persons in Ayacucho. The government also denied this accusation and reiterated its confidence in Gen Noel, who explained that the persons who are missing have joined the Shining Path group, either voluntarily or under threat by the extremists.

GUERRILLAS ATTACK AYACUCHO TOWN, KILL 14

PY210230 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0152 GMT 21 Sep 83

[Text] Lima, 20 Sep (EFE) -- The Peruvian police today reported that 14 peasants were killed and 13 were seriously wounded when more than 100 "Shining Path" guerrillas attacked a town in the Andean Department of Ayacucho. The attack took place in the locality of Tikihua, located 150 km from Ayacucho, capital of the department. According to remarks by the wounded persons who were evacuated, the guerrillas entered the town ruthlessly, using light machineguns, machetes, clubs, and rocks.

U.S. TAX ON CEMENT EXPORTS LABELED 'UNFAIR'

FL202330 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2000 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 20 Sep (NOTIMEX) -- The president of the Mexico-U.S. Chamber of Commerce has described the decision of the U.S. Government to place a compensatory tax on Mexican cement as unfair and discriminatory.

On 14 September, the U.S. Department of Commerce established the application of a compensatory tax on Mexican (?cement) exports which ranged from 2 to 6 percent on the average but which in some cases could be as much as 17 percent. Rubio del Cueto said that decision would hurt cement sales to the United States, but that trade would continue.

SALVADORAN CHARGE CALLS FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS

FL201426 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1845 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 19 Sep (NOTIMEX) -- A Salvadoran diplomat here has said that there is still coolness in the relations between El Salvador and Mexico as a result of the French-Mexican declaration, which called for representation of the Salvadoran rebels. Jose Roberto Mejia Trabanio, the Salvadoran charge d'affaires in Mexico, in an interview with the influential daily EL UNIVERSAL called for the resumption of contacts at the ambassadorial level.

PLANNING SECRETARY SAYS ECONOMIC CRISIS CURBED

FL191349 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1550 GMT 18 Sep 83

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Sep (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico's financial relations abroad are returning to normal for the first time in recent history and the current balance of payments has a surplus, said Carlos Salinas de Gortari, secretary of planning and budget.

In the presence of more than 3,000 persons of Mexican-U.S. ancestry, Salinas de Gortari said in Los Angeles, California, where he presided over festivities marking Mexico's independence anniversary, that the country is coping with the crisis.

He added that the crisis has not been solved yet, but that its most acute and serious aspects are under control and that the signs of a modest but firm economic recovery accompanied by declining inflation are evident.

He said that the struggle against the crisis has been based on strengthening the democratic institutions, expanding political participation, and maintaining social peace in order to achieve structural economic and exchange stability. He added that the crisis has not paralyzed but rather revitalized the renovating impulse that the circumstances demand.

BANK DIRECTOR DISCUSSES ECONOMY, CARACAS MEETING

FL192030 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1620 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Text] Mexico City, 19 Sep (NOTIMEX) -- The IMF has not imposed economic models on Mexico nor has it pressured the country to follow a predetermined course, Miguel Mancera Aguayo, director of the Bank of Mexico, has stated.

Before departing for Venezuela, where he will attend a meeting of Latin American, Spanish, and Philippine bank governors, Mancera Ayuayo said that Mexico is conducting a well-defined and nationalistic economic policy. We are perfectly capable of choosing our destiny and of implementing measures which, although drastic, are proving to be correct and conducive to a better future, he said.

Mancera Aguayo stated that it is expected an agreed position will be reached particularly concerning Latin America at the Caracas meeting for the next meeting of the IMF on 26 September in Washington. Regarding the economic situation in Mexico, he said we have had to suffer unemployment and higher prices, but the country is on the right path with good prospects.

PSD LOSES COURT BATTLE OVER REGISTRATION

PA201908 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 6 Sep 83 p 7

[Text] The first district's first associated court for administrative matters has definitely turned down the Social Democratic Party's (PSD) request for an injunction against the decision to cancel its registration. The PSD sought an injunction against a decision issued by the Government Secretariat and the National Voter Registry, which canceled the party's registration because it failed to obtain the minimum number of votes required by the electoral law.

Magistrate Fernando Lanz Cardenas explained that the court unanimously upheld the ninth administrative judge's refusal to grant the injunction, because the injunction law provides protection not against political decisions but against administrative, legislative, and judicial measures. The PSD has thus exhausted all recourses by which it may oppose the decision issued by the Government Secretariat and the Federal Electoral Commission on its annulment. As a result, it has ceased to be a formally established party.

PPS CANDIDATE ALLEGES PAN ELECTORAL IMPROPRIETY

PA202209 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 8 Sep 83 p 6

[By Jose Luis Camacho]

[Text] Mexicali, Northern Baja California, 7 Sep -- After stating that PAN [National Action Party] members are manipulating groups in the capital to provoke them to violence, Sergio Quiroz Miranda, PPS [Popular Socialist Party] candidate for governor of Baja California, said that PAN is a U.S. instrument to denationalize Mexico's northern border. The PPS candidate charged that PAN members have forged certificates of elections, stuffed ballot boxes with votes from people brought from San Colorado and other Sonora State villages, and openly violated the electoral law by propagandizing on election day and by inciting people to hide ballot boxes. And now they are posing as the victims, he added.

Quiroz Miranda said that the electoral law must nevertheless be applied, despite the fact that they are posing as the victims. The demand to suspend PAN's national registry, which was introduced on Sunday, 4 September, at the State Electoral Commission, should continue its course. Quiroz Miranda recalled that this request was supported by seven votes. There was one vote against it, and one abstention.

Professor Quiroz Miranda, who carried out one of the party's longest political campaigns, stated that the PAN plan for the northern border, and now for Baja California, is that of the U.S. transnational concerns.

As an example, the PPS member referred to Eugenio Elordy Walter, PAN candidate for Mexicali's municipal presidency, who is from Calexico, California, and represents the transnational concern Ford Motor Company in Baja California. PAN has had at its disposal all the transnational concerns' resources and also those of the political bosses to seek Baja California's total denationalization. PAN's intention to annex Baja California State to the United States has been made public, Quiroz Miranda said. Alfredo Arenas, one of its candidates for deputy, has proposed that Mexico's external debt be canceled by turning over Baja California to the United States.

Quiroz Miranda warned that PAN is trying to take the population to a dangerous stance, while the government has assumed a contemplative position. The PPS candidate recalled the charge made by the coordinator of a democratic committee from the southern United States regarding the intervention of the U.S. Department of State and the FBI in Mexico's electoral process, as was published by EL DIA a week ago. This charge is to be investigated fully. We will use the Congress' platform to demand the investigation to clarify that intervention in the electoral process by U.S. organizations that support the PAN, particularly now in Baja California and previously in Chihuahua and Durango States, he said.

Quiroz Miranda stated that an undisclosed process has been carried out in Baja California for the state's denationalization and a movement to the right. The same rightist sector took possession of the position of the current governor and even dominated the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party].

Mexicali's current municipal president, Eduardo Martinez Palomera, is a well-known PAN advocate, according to the federal deputy, who also pointed out that the PRI has lent its letterhead to PAN. Quiroz Miranda added, however that PAN has now taken off its mask. PAN has committed every possible violation of the election legislation. It has forged certificates of elections and has also engaged in propaganda before and after elections. It is now posing as the victim and blackmailing the government to get concessions and privileges. Deputy Sergio Quiroz Miranda said: "It is time to stop it in its tracks."

HIRED MOURNERS

In addition, the Baja California political organization said in this respect: "Now it just so happens that our enemies want to appear as the victors in last Sunday's elections."

In a communique that specifically mentioned the blackmail carried out by PAN in the state, especially in Mexicali, by daily prodding the people toward violence "if their votes are not respected," the PPS pointed out that "only their fantasies can lead them to make such statements."

The PPS has stressed that PAN's contradictions reveal "its dirty, ill-intentioned game." "If, as it says, it was not allowed to have a representative at the ballot boxes, why does it have certificates of elections at the ballot boxes?"

The PPS has accused PAN of taking away and forging the certificates of elections with which PAN is blackmailing the Mexicali people.

In addition, the Leadro Valle Revolutionary National Association has published a declaration in various Mexicali newspapers stating that PAN was openly propagandizing by disseminating leaflets, badges, caps, and sweaters with the PAN logo on the day of the elections, despite the fact that the law prohibits it.

OFFICIAL SAYS PRESIDENT ELIGIBLE FOR NEW TERM

PA192231 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 19 Sep 83 pp 2, 23

[Article by Jaime Beitia]

[Text] Ricardo de la Espriella could be a presidential candidate in the 1984 elections without having to resign from his post as president of the republic 6 months before the date of the elections, because the Electoral Code does not require his resignation.

Article 30 of the Electoral Law states that public employees who have held office during any period of time within 6 months prior to the election date -- all high-ranking public administration officials except the president and vice president of the republic -- are ineligible to run for the offices of president and vice president of the republic, legislator, mayor, or any other publically elected office. The exception of the president and vice president has been described by [Electoral Tribunal President] Cesar Quintero as a "deplorable" omission.

The Electoral Law, which was reviewed and approved by the National Legislative Council on 10 August 1983, is the result of consultations between the Electoral Tribunal and the political parties. Quintero said that the nomination of candidates for the republic's presidency for the May 1984 elections must take place before 29 February.

The Electoral Tribunal president, who was invited to attend the fourth National Press Seminar in Bambito, Chiriqui, by the Newsmen's Association of Chiriqui, said that the Panamanian people will know the results of the presidential election 24 hours after the voting has taken place.

He said: It would be ideal to have two candidates in the coming elections; one representing the parties that have been supporting the regime and another representing opposition parties. In another part of his address, he said it is the Panamanian people who will decide whether or not elections will be held.

Quintero said that neither the National Guard nor the Executive Branch has influenced the work or decisions of the Electoral Tribunal. He added: We have also not been pressured by them; only those who want to be pressured can be pressured.

In addition, he said that the Electoral Tribunal will need approximately $4 million to organize the elections. He said that government funds and the public forces should not be used to impose a candidacy. In conclusion, Quintero called on the media to help promote a campaign to ensure that all citizens with the right to vote obtain their cedulas. Currently, some 100,000 people lack this card, because a great number of Panamanians have reached voting age and must be registered, while others have lost the card.

President's Candidacy Prohibited

PA201633 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 19 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] A number of interviews and a considerable amount of research conducted by our staff indicate that Arnulfo Arias Madrid, three times president of Panama, will probably not be nominated as a candidate for a fourth election in 1984 by an alliance of parties and, therefore, will also not be a candidate of the Authentic Panamenist Party, whose legal recognition is now nearly complete.

There is a strong trend within the most traditional "Arnulfist sector" in support of placing the party banner in the hands of one of the younger leaders, either through an alliance or as the single candidate of Authentic Panamenism.

Among the primary reasons that have been given for replacing Dr Arias Madrid as the active standard-bearer of the glorious party are his advanced age and the fact that he has been overthrown three times. This last consideration will make it very difficult to raise the funds need for the upcoming political campaign.

Meanwhile, President Ricardo de la Espriella is barred as a presidential candidate in the next elections due to constitutional Articles 173 and 187. These provisions are clear and categorical in their prohibition of such an action, Electoral Tribunal President Cesar Quintero has told LA REPUBLICA.

Holding a copy of the Constitution, Quintero quoted the articles:

Article 173: Citizens who have been elected president or vice president cannot be reelected to the same office in the two subsequent presidential terms.

Article 187: The following persons cannot be elected president of the republic:

1. Any citizen who having been called to exercise the presidency due to the absence of the incumbent held that office at any time during the 3 years immediately prior to the period for which the election is being held.

DE LA ESPRIELLA HAILS ILLUECA ELECTION AT UN

PA210211 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Excerpts] Dr Jorge Illueca, the vice president of Panama, today was elected president of the 38th General Assembly of the United Nations. The 65-year-old vice president obtained 83 votes, 6 more than the required majority of 77.

Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella has sent the following message to Dr Illueca:

Interpreting the Panamanian people's feeling of patriotic pride, I want to congratulate you sincerely on having been elected president of the 38th General Assembly of the United Nations. This election represents world recognition for your outstanding internationalist record at the service of your country and world peace. We know that this election, in addition to representing a personal honor for you, is also an acknowledgment of Panama's pacifist and Third World inclination.

Please accept, through me, the admiration and affection of your fellow countrymen.

The message is signed: Respectful greetings, Ricardo de la Espriella, President of the Republic.

HAVANA NOTES PANAMANIAN-U.S. JOINT EXERCISE

PA200435 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Text] Panamanian National Guard Units and U.S. troops from the Southern Command stationed in the canal area have completed a joint military exercise. The exercise concluded with the deployment of all the participating units from Fort Sherman in the Atlantic sector to Fort Collins [as heard] in the Pacific sector. The military exercises were carried out along the mountain range that runs through Colon and Panama Provinces. The U.S. and Panamanian troops were under the orders of U.S. commander (Hunter Sharp).

COSTA RICA

VOLIO DENIES REQUESTING U.S. MILITARY AID

PA200319 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0121 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Text] San Jose, 19 Sep (ACAN-EFE) -- The Costa Rican foreign minister today denied international press reports indicating the probability that Costa Rica would make a request to the United States for the installation of missiles and other weapons in that Central American country. Volio stated: "The report released in Madrid is not true."

The report indicated that the alleged plot of the Basque Fatherland and Liberty, "ETA," to assassinate anti-Sandinist leaders living in San Jose was also directed against Costa Rican Government officials and that Costa Rica had asked the United States to install missiles and other weapons.

The Costa Rican foreign minister expressed appreciation for the special protection being given by the Spanish Government to the Costa Rican diplomatic mission headquarters in Madrid.

At the same time, Volio announced: "We will provide protection to the Spanish Embassy here in response to a request from Ambassador Gonzalo Fernandez de Cordova."

The protection by the two governments for the diplomatic representatives was agreed upon after details of an alleged ETA plot in this capital were disclosed.

President Luis Alberto Monge recognized the gravity of the situation raised by the arrest of the ETA members, and said that "this country must not let itself be blackmailed."

NICARAGUAN SOLDIERS, PHOTOGRAPHER CAPTURED

Nicaraguans Claim Error

PA201650 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Text] According to a statement Colonel Oscar Vidal made yesterday afternoon, the Nicaraguan soldiers captured in Limon on Saturday, 17 September, have said that they became lost and that they landed on our coast by mistake. The Nicaraguan Sandinists were under the orders of Deputy Commanders Jose Daniel Garcia Estrada and Orlando Parle Rodriguez and Second Lieutenant Guillermo Largaespada Perez, according to Colonel Monge.

For security reasons, newsmen were not permitted to interview them, although photographs were allowed.

Most of the members of the National Security Council, that is, the ministers of justice, government, and the presidency, are out of the country. Efforts are being made to convene an urgent meeting of those ministers still in the country and those serving in an acting capacity.

Espionage Mission Suspected

PA210410 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Sep 83

[Text] The group comprised of 11 Sandinist People's Army, EPS, militarymen and a BARRICADA newspaper photographer of Costa Rican nationality appears to have been on an espionage mission.

For their deployment they used two boats, and it is not true that one of the boats suffered mechanical problems. In fact, they were transporting maps of the zone where they were found, 30 km within Costa Rican territory.

In response to Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto's request that the militarymen and the civilian who entered Costa Rican territory by error be returned, the Security Council has decided to acknowledge receipt of the request, while an investigation continues. The photographer, Rudolph Beder, son of a late distinguished doctor in our country, had photographic equipment and film, which were confiscated by the authorities.

While the Security Council clarifies their situation, the 11 EPS militarymen and the civilian captured in national waters 13 km from (Laguna de Agua Dulce) will remain under arrest. It will be necessary to analyze the documents carried by the militarymen, and Foreign Minister D'Escoto's request that they be returned, as well as statements by inhabitants of the Barra del Rio Colorado area, who reported the presence of Nicaraguan boats in national waters.

The state Security Council will meet again at the end of the week to determine what to do with the militarymen captured last Saturday in Costa Rican territorial waters. The government feels there was no error, that they entered knowing perfectly well they were violating Costa Rican territorial waters, Manuel Carballo Quintana, state Security Council spokesman and deputy minister of the presidency, said.

HAVANA ON PRESSURES AGAINST NEUTRALITY POSITION

PA2C1914 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Text] Costa Rican Public Security Minister Angel Edmundo Solano has said in San Jose that the government is currently the target of an infamous and prejudiced campaign against Costa Rica's neutrality toward the Nicaraguan conflict. He said that whenever the Costa Rican authorities have acted in defense of the principle of neutrality, it has been in response to an official policy that has the support of the entire executive branch. I will not permit the slanderous statement that we are protecting the Nicaraguan Government, he added.

According to some political and press circles, Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge is being pressured by anti-Sandinist groups, extreme rightist Costa Rican groups, and the U.S. Embassy in San Jose to abandon the neutrality policy and to remove Minister Solano.

The sources added that this pressure grew stronger when the public security minister recently expelled a group of 60 U.S. mercenaries, most of them of Cuban descent, who had entered Costa Rica to fight the Nicaraguan Government.

BRIEFS

PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY CHANGED -- Public Security Ministry sources have indicated that the security apparatus charged with ensuring President Monge's safety will no longer be an autonomous organization. Henceforth, the president's security will be handled by the Public Security Ministry, under the direct orders of Minister Angel Edmundo Solano Calderon. The decision to make this change was made by the president. [Summary] [San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 13 Sep 83 p 7 PA]

PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER -- Rodolfo Solano Orfila has been appointed adviser for economic affairs to the Presidency. He has been functioning in this position since 1 September 1983. His duties will include specific tasks assigned him by the National Economic Council. [Summary] [San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 13 Sep 83 p 4 PA]

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT -- Lester Bird, premier [as published] of Antigua and Barbuda, met with President Luis Alberto Monge and Foreign Minister Fernando Volio yesterday, as part of his visit to Costa Rica. The prime minister is reportedly here to negotiate the establishment of a new, joint airline company with Costa Rican Airlines officials. [Summary] [San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 13 Sep 83 p 12-A PA]

EL SALVADOR

ARMY CONDUCTING OPERATION IN USULUTAN DEPARTMENT

PA200353 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Text] Combined forces of the Salvadoran Army this morning continued an operation in the coastal zone of Usulutan Department to pursue guerrilla forces that have been increasing their actions in recent days. This information was supplied to YSU by military sources.

According to the reports, the operation began last Friday, with forces of the specialized Atlacatl Battalion, soldiers from the 4th Military Detachment, members of the national Navy, and soldiers of the Atonal Battalion participating. However, the total number of troops engaged in the operation was not disclosed.

The leftist rebels are being fought primarily in Jiquilisco, Puerto El Triunfo, and Jucuaran, in the coastal area. However, no major details were given concerning the actions, in which there have allegedly been many casualties on both sides.

Three leftist rebels were killed in the town of Nombre de Jesus, Chalatenango, when they were looting local stores. Military sources from San Salvador this morning reported to YSU that the rebels clashed with regular Army forces. The subversives were looting the stores when an Army patrol arrived in Nombre de Jesus and a clash ensued. The leftists scattered and fled, leaving behind the bodies of three rebels who died in a hail of Armed Forces bullets, our sources reported.

Chalatenango is one of the zones where the guerrilla groups have gathered most of their forces, and they continually raid various towns in the northern sector. They have engaged in fierce clashes with regular Army forces deployed in that department.

Reliable sources have reported to YSU that clashes took place yesterday in the village of (Los Hernandez), jurisdiction of Nuevo Eden de San Juan, San Miguel Department, located 116 km from this capital. Our sources added that the clashes took place late yesterday when rebels raided the village. Soldiers of Military Detachment No 2 headquartered in Sensuntepeque forced them to withdraw, and their whereabouts are unknown.

Our sources added there is no information about casualties, because of an interruption in communications among the troops deployed to the area occupied by the rebels.

ELECTRICITY, WATER REPORTED RESTORED IN SAN MIGUEL

PA200303 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Text] This morning, after consulting several information sources, it was revealed to YSKL's news department personnel that large areas in the eastern sector of the country again have electricity -- mainly the beautiful city of San Miguel. The city's vital power supply had been cut for well-known reasons. It is reported that potable water has been restored to some sectors of our fair San Miguel. It is presumed that the telephone system will be restored in a few days. Technicians from ANTEL [National Telecommunications Administration] are working so this vital service can once again link San Miguel with the other cities of El Salvador.

Likewise, rebel attacks on towns in San Miguel Department have continued over the past hours, with the occupation of Chapeltique, some 130 km from San Salvador. Military sources have reported that there is simply no information concerning the fate of the 15 civilian defense members who were guarding the town. The civilian defense force had been fighting the rebels with rifles since early last Sunday morning. When the leftists entered the town, they partially destroyed the ANTEL office. To date, there is no information concerning whether there were casualties among the civilian population.

COPREFA SEES FPL 'POSTHUMOUS PURGE' OF CARPIO

PA200240 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Communique issued by the Salvadoran Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA; date and place not given -- read by announcer]

[Text] San Salvador -- The plenary meeting of the FPL [Farabundo Marti Peoples Liberation Forces] that elected the replacements for Melida Anaya Montes and Cayetano Carpio was dedicated to Commander Ana Maria, as Melida Anaya Montes was known, inexplicably ignoring Carpio. This omission seems to imply that a posthumous purge has been carried out against Cayetano Carpio who, up to the time of his death, was the leader of the FPL.

Carpio and Melida Anaya died, murdered by the same groups [as heard], in April.

FMLN SEES FEAR IN U.S. DENIAL OF ZAMORA VISA

PA201725 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Text] President Reagan is apparently not overly pleased with the initiation of our military campaign, which has discredited all U.S. claims that the situation in El Salvador is under control and that the puppet Army had allegedly retaken the initiative. Reagan, Weinberger, and the State Department are, in fact, so annoyed over the FMLN's military victories that they have refused a U.S. entry visa to Ruben Zamora, FMLN-FDR Political-Diplomatic Committee representative, who was invited to visit by legislators and other U.S. sectors.

Why is Reagan so afraid of the words and positions of a representative of the Salvadoran people? Why is Reagan so afraid that the U.S. people might learn about our causes, our struggle, and our political proposals? What kind of a democracy is governed by Reagan, who fears the truth of our cause? How many U.S. officials come here, whenever they wish, as if our country were the last of their colonies? And yet, in turn, they try to keep the American people from learning the truth about the Salvadoran people, whose independence and freedom they are trying to take away.

The decision to deny Ruben Zamora's entry into the United States is Reagan's childish and absurd reply to the revolutionary victories. which are making a mockery of imperialism's claims of victory.

VENCEREMOS REPORTS BRIGADE HONORS FALLEN MEMBERS

PA202040 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 20 Sep 83

[War report by the General Command of the FMLN's Commander Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade, issued in Morazan, El Salvador, on 19 September]

[Excerpts] The General Command of the Commander Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade wishes to report the victorious operations conducted as part of our "Independence, Liberty, and Democracy for El Salvador" military campaign, and the death in battle of our heroic Companeros Rivera, Maria Aviles Gomez, Luis Hernandez, Emilio Galvez, Gladys Perez Medina, Jose Saturnino Martinez, and Edelberto Machado.

The General Command wishes to make special mention of Companero Evelio Romero Garcia, deputy commander of the special forces of the brigade's southern group, who also fell in battle. His courage and fighting qualities made him an outstanding revolutionary. All these worthy fighters and companeros fell during different engagements, all carrying out their missions brilliantly and courageously, showing the people's enemies that Salvadoran patriots are determined to win their freedom and recover their sovereignty.

Long live the heroes of the people! Revolution or death, we will win!

HAVANA REPORTS ON CIVILIANS KILLED, FMLN ACTIONS

PA201910 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Text] A report issued by the Salvadoran Archbishopric's Legal Assistance Office indicates that more than 2,500 civilians were killed in El Salvador by the regime's army and security and paramilitary forces in the first half of 1983. According to the document, the repressive forces arrested more than 500 people in the same period. It added that the Army and other armed institutions sustained 756 casualties.

In San Salvador, official sources announced that the regime's so-called Peace Commission will meet with representatives of the FMLN-FDR in Bogota, Colombia, on 29 September.

The guerrilla station, Radio Venceremos, reported that over the weekend guerrilla detachments inflicted 18 casualties on Salvadoran Navy patrols near the (Sompopera) saltworks in Usulutan Department.

The government troops sustained six more casualties in clashes on a section of the northern highway controlled by the insurgents. This is in addition to the more than 400 soldiers who have been put out of action in the first 15 days of the rebel's "Independence, Liberty, and Democracy for El Salvador" campaign.

GUATEMALA

ARMY CHIEF SAYS U.S. AID REQUEST POSSIBLE

PA202145 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Summary from poor reception] General Hector Mario Lopez Fuentes, chief of the Army General Staff, this morning said that the Guatemalan Government may request military aid from the United States on the occasion of Henry Kissinger's visit to Guatemala as head of a commission for Central American affairs appointed by President Reagan.

General Lopez Fuentes added that the United States will not establish military bases in Guatemala, as the international press has been insisting.

The chief of the Army General Staff said that the government believes that the amnesty granted to the subversives has been successful.

In conclusion, General Lopez Fuentes said that the situation of the Guatemalan refugees in Mexico is improving.

ARMY CLASHES WITH REBELS, DESTROYS CAMPS

PA202230 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Text] The Army's Public Relations Office has reported that military patrols detailed to protect and provide services for the residents in the area known as Playa Grande, Uspantan jursidiction, El Quiche Department, discovered and destroyed three camps that were being used by unidentified armed men.

The office reported that on 16 September at 1000 a military patrol destroyed the camps near the places known as Pueblo Viejo and Playa Grande, in Uspantan jurisdiction, El Quiche Department. The patrol found a shop where uniforms were made and also found materials used for this purpose.

In one of the camps the patrols discovered basic grains, medicine, food, backpacks equipped with personal effects, cooking utensils, and propaganda. All the material found was confiscated.

The Army's Public Relations Office also reported that in the second camp an unidentified armed man was killed. Important documents were found on this man, and these enabled them to find the third camp, where heavy fighting was reported on 17 September.

The fighting reported after locating the third subversive camp resulted in 24 unidentified men killed. This third camp was located on La Laguna farm, Playa Grande jurisdiction, El Quiche. The 24 dead men carried no identification. Counterinsurgency operations are continuing throughout the area.

HAVANA CITES URNG COMMUNIQUE ON U.S. PLANS

PA201924 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Text] Guatemala has become a docile instrument of U.S. military intervention in Central America, according to the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG], which released a communique in San Jose today. The communique adds that General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores' dictatorship has begun to play a very active military and political role in defense of the Reagan administration's policy and in pursuit of U.S. interests.

The URNG says that Washington's plans seek aid from the Guatemalan Army in fighting the Salvadoran guerrillas and the Nicaraguan revolution, once it is free of its domestic obligations.

The communique adds that Guatemala is supposed to feign a neutral policy while its Foreign Ministry tries to undermine and stop the efforts to achieve a negotiated peace in Central America.

The URNG communique is signed by all its member organizations: the People's Guerrilla Army, the Rebel Armed Forces, the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms, and the Guatemalan Labor Party, which is its leadership organization.

GUERRILLA LEADER SCORES U.S. 'INTERVENTION'

PA202138 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1740 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Sep (EFE) -- Gaspar Ilom, commander in chief of the Guatemalan Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms (ORPA), has said that the direct participation of the United States in Central America will increase the social costs of liberation.

In an interview that was published in a document distributed by ORPA on the occasion of its "fourth anniversary of operations and 12th anniversary of struggle," Ilom stated that "our peoples' struggles will not be eliminated."

"The U.S. intervention will have, and is already having, effects contrary to those sought by the Reagan administration: Instead of destroying the revolutionary movement, it is expanding the area of the conflict," the document delivered to EFE in Mexico City stated.

The guerrilla leader said that U.S. intervention "is bringing millions of Central Americans into the conflict, and it is trying, in an irresponsible manner, to unify the enemies of our peoples."

Gaspar Ilom indicated that the United States, specifically the Reagan administration, has a mistaken idea of the origins of the Central American conflict, because it directly links it to the East-West conflict and views it as a national security problem.

He also said that with that "mistaken and ridiculous view, the U.S. Government is trying to justify the increasing intervention" without bearing in mind that the origin of the struggles is "entirely national and caused by conditions of the most terrible injustice" the peoples of the region are suffering.

The ORPA commander in chief stated that the Reagan administration has made the guerrillas establish "not only revolutionary objectives but also a national struggle in defense of our own fatherlands and of the Central American homeland."

He added that U.S. participation "is strengthening Central American unity," since "in all Central American countries there are strong revolutionary movements that are working for their liberation."

Nevertheless, Ilom said that "we hope the neighboring countries that comprise the Contadora Group, the international pressure, and progressive U.S. sectors will be able to prevent a direct confrontation and the regionalization of the conflict."

Referring to Guatemala, the guerrilla leader said that General Oscar Mejia Victores "is playing the card of following Reagan's plans to the letter and of directly committing himself to his interventionist policy in exchange for political, economic, and military support."

HONDURAS

FOREIGN SECRETARIAT DENIES EXPELLING EEC EXPERT

PA200016 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 2230 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Communique issued by the Press and Information Directorate of the Foreign Secretariat; date and place not given]

[Text] The Honduran Foreign Relations Secretariat, in response to news reports that (Eberhard Kohl) has been declared persona non grata, states that this lacks veracity. He is an expert, not an official EEC representative, who was contracted to collaborate in the implementation of projects financed by the EEC in our country.

In this regard, we are pleased to report that Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica has held a fruitful and lengthy conversation with the president of the EEC Commission for International Affairs. They analyzed at the highest level the Central American political situation and the EEC cooperation programs for Honduras. It was recognized that the Honduran Government is handling these program responsibly and efficiently. Therefore, the EEC is willing to increase its cooperation with Honduras in various areas.

Likewise, via diplomatic channels and through our representative to the EEC, a preliminary report concerning its food aid programs has been presented. The report will be expanded upon later, once responsible organizations have made the appropriate investigations.

Aside from the information reported by some news media today, EEC officials have also ascertained that the EEC expert violated the terms of his contract for services. Consequently, the responsible EEC organizations have decided to take the necessary measures that will allow cordial relations of cooperation with the Honduran Government.

After returning from his European tour, the foreign relations secretary will give further explanations as requested by the news media. He will once again give proof of the responsibility and seriousness that characterize the policy of the constitutional Government of Honduras.

OFFICER DETAILS ANTIGUERRILLA ACTIONS IN OLANCHO

PA201708 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Report by Danilo Antunes on a news conference held by an unidentified Honduran Army officer in command of the Patuca Task Force involved in fighting guerrillas in Olancho, in the Patuca River area, on 19 September; reporter unidentified -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Officer] I will provide details on the fighting in which our patrols have been involved. On [number indistinct] August, a commando-type patrol entered the jungle area and established contact with the enemy. Our patrol ambushed the enemy and advised them to surrender. The enemy replied with gunfire and a clash ensued. The subversives lost three dead.

On 3 September, another commando patrol encountered subversive forces. They called upon the enemy to surrender, but the subversives replied with gunfire and suffered 10 dead as a result. On 11 September, another patrol in the jungle area on the right bank of the Patuca River ambushed a broup of subversives, killing five of them. Yesterday, 18 September, another clash with the subversives occurred in which eight were killed. Confirmed reports from the patrol indicate that Jose Maria Reyes Mata, commander Pablo Mendoza, was among them.

In the actions and operations against the subversive forces, we, unfortunately, have sustained (?six) dead. One was wounded yesterday in the clash with Commander Pablo Mendoza, at approximately 1600 or 1700.

[Reporter] How can you be sure that Jose Maria Reyes Mata has been killed?

[Officer] Jose Maria Reyes Mata is very well-known in the country. Our troops and officers know what he looks like from photographs that have been published in the newspapers. Even though he had lost some weight, since he hadn't eaten much, he as positively identified. He has unmistakable features.

This is a Honduran problem. It was created by Honduras, and Hondurans are the ones fighting it. We don't have U.S. advisers or troops working with the Patuca Task Force. This operation was planned by our high command and has been carried out by Honduran troops. There are no Americans advising us. We don't have any U.S. equipment or helicopters here. All the resources that we are using in this area belong to the Honduran Army. The U. S. troops in the country are involved in Big Pine II. There are no North Americans in this area. This is an operational combat area. The maneuvers are being held elsewhere.

NICARAGUA

GOVERNMENT INVITES MOTLEY TO VISIT 13 OCTOBER

PA210359 Paris AFP in Spanish 0312 GMT 21 Sep 83

[Excerpts] Managua, 20 Sep (AFP) -- Official sources have said that the Sandinist government today invited Langhorne Motley, U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, to visit Nicaragua on 13 October.

At the beginning of this month, Motley unexpectedly canceled a trip to Nicaragua, saying that Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Government Junta, would not receive him as had been officially scheduled.

It has not been reported whether the coordinator of the Government Junta will receive Motley this time, in the event Motley accepts the invitation.

MANAGUA REPORTS DETENTION OF GROUP IN COSTA RICA

Entry Said Accidental

PA200400 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Text] A group of 11 Sandinist People's Army, EPS, officers, including Deputy Commander Jose Garcia, has been arrested by Costa Rican authorities in Barra del Colorado. The officers accidentally entered Costa Rican waters when the motor boat they were traveling in stalled and the current made them drift toward Barra del Colorado.

Costa Rican Public Security Minister Angel Edmundo Solano confirmed that the Nicaraguan soldiers had been arrested. He said legal paperwork was being processed to return them to Nicaragua.

Radio Noticias has just learned that San Jose Radio Reloj has officially announced that the 12 [as heard] Sandinist officers arrested near Barra del Colorado on Saturday will be returned to Nicaragua today.

Continued Detention Questioned

PA202003 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Text] Here is some last-minute information: Costa Rica's Radio Reloj has announced that the Sandinist People's Army members who were captured last Saturday in Costa Rica will not be released until the Costa Rican National Security Agency determines the reasons for their detention.

We wish to note that this piece of information is very strange, because the Costa Rican authorities, and even Public Security Minister Angel Edmundo Solano himself, had already acknowledged that the boat entered Costa Rican territorial waters accidentally, as a result of completely unforeseen circumstances. This sort of thing has happened before to both Nicaraguan militarymen, who suddenly realize that they are in Costa Rican territory, and to Costa Rican militarymen who, because of the border situation, suddenly discover that they are in Nicaraguan territory. The question now is: Why are the Costa Rican leaders acting this way?

OFF COURSE SALVADORAN PLANE FORCED DOWN, RELEASED

PA202058 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1456 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Text] Managua, 20 Sep (ACAN-EFE) -- A Salvadoran-registered light aircraft that was forced to land in this capital because it was flying off course was authorized to continue its flight, official sources confirmed today.

The plane, owned by Commercial Airlines (ALA) and piloted by Rene Baquedano, was not following its route Sunday night when it overflew, without authorization, the city of Diriamba, 50 km south of this capital.

In view of this, the antiaircraft defense fired several warning shots at the plane. Pilot Baquedano contacted the control tower in Managua, from where he was persuaded to land at Managua's international airport.

After investigations were completed, the pilot and plane were released, the official sources indicated.

HAVANA CITES DIPLOMATS' STATEMENTS, CHARGES AT UN

PA192223 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Sep 83

[From the Weekly Feature on the Nonaligned Movement]

[Text] Javier Chamorro, the Nicaraguan ambassador to the United Nations, last week again denounced the constant attacks being endured by the Nicaraguan people during a plenary session of nonaligned countries at that most important international organization, located in New York.

The Nicaraguan diplomat siad that despite its peace rhetoric and its presumed support for dialogue and negotiation, the U.S. Government is plotting new and more intensive attacks on Nicaragua. In this regard, Chamorro accused the Central Intelligence Agency of regrouping counterrevolutionary and mercenary forces in Honduran terrioty to launch large-scale attacks against his country.

In addition, the Nicaraguan ambassador to the United Nations also reported that, to carry out their plans, the Somozists can rely not only on direct support from the Honduran Government and Army but also on U.S. war material and troops that are currently stationed off Central America's Pacific and Atlantic coasts.

In conclusion, Javier Chamorro reaffirmed his country's willingness to seek a peaceful solution to the area's conflicts through dialogue and political negotiation between the parties that are directly involved.

In addition, Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco said before the UN Security Council that Ronald Reagan's administration blindly wants to thwart the Central American peoples' aspirations for justice and national independence. Tinoco also presented the documents found on one of the pilots killed during the bombing of the Managua international airport, which constitute additional proof of the support that the United States is giving to the counterrevolutionaries for such operations.

SERGIO RAMIREZ DISCUSSES COOPERATION WITH DPRK

PA200429 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Text] Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, has returned to our country with the full economic and moral support for the Sandinist people's revolution from the DPRK and the Mongolian People's Republic, following a visit to these two countries.

Ramirez Mercado attended the anniversary of the founding of the DPRK, where he held talks with representatives of friendly countries among the 120 delegations that attended the event. He summed up his tour as follows:

[Begin recording] We met with President Kim Il-song and discussed the ties of cooperation between Nicaragua and the DPRK. This meeting led to an expansion of our economic cooperation, the scheduling of a meeting of the joint cooperation commission to be held in Managua in October, and a Korean offer to supply all our needs in steel and other metals for 1984 and part of 1985 and to give technical assistance to [words indistinct] in Nicaragua with a production capacity of 100,000 tons per year. In addition, a Korean delegation will visit our country in the next few days with this intention in mind. We could say that the results of the visit were highly positive.

We also met with the heads of other delegations, such as those of Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Zambia, Tanzania, and other friendly countries present at this celebration.

I also made a 2-day official visit to Mongolia, where we signed a joint declaration. We believe the results [words indistinct] these two visits, particularly that to the DPRK, are good for the country's cooperation and development [words indistinct] political contacts with other countries and, in the case of Korea and Nicaragua, [words indistinct] members of the Nonaligned Movement. [end recording]

REBEL BAND REPORTED DISMANTLED, PLANS THWARTED

PA192059 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Sep 83

[Text] The band led by Somozist counterrevolutionary Jose Francisco Ruiz, alias Renato or Paco, has been completely dismantled by the Sandinist People's Army [EPS].

After a chase of almost 1 month by the Simon Bolivar Battalion for Irregular Warfare [Batallon de Lucha Irregular Simon Bolivar], the task force has been reduced from 450 to less than 200 counterrevolutionaries. The counterrevolutionary offensive against our country began in late August and was a variant of Plan C, according to which Boaco and Chontales Departments were to be occupied. As is known, Renato or Paco, the counterrevolutionary leader who is currently trying to establish a (?foothold) at the northern border, is guilty of the massacre of 23 reservists in (San Jose de las Mulas), the killing of the 18 peasants whose throats were slit in Paiwas, 40 kidnappings, and the burning of 30 huts in northern Nicaragua.

This EPS action totally thwarted the CIA's most imaginative plan. To Renato's defeat must be added the dismantling and scattering of the Somozists with whom the traitor [Eden Pastora] was supposed to meet somewhere in Central Zelaya Department in order to sever one-fourth of the nation's territory and establish a so-called provisional government.

Havana on Invasion Efforts

PA202030 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Text] The Managua newspaper BARRICADA has reported that an ambitious counterrevolutionary plan to place forces deep inside Nicaragua has been thwarted by the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] in a little over a month of fighting and harassment operations against the invading forces.

The newspaper added that the plan, which was carefully drafted by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, called for incursions by two large task forces, one from the north and one from the south, which would converge within a triangle whose points would be the port of Bluefields and the mountainous areas of Boaco and Chontales Departments.

According to a lengthy BARRICADA report, the forces that entered from Costa Rica under the command of traitor Eden Pastora fled after several days of fighting in the areas of Haulover and Barra del Maiz, leaving behind over 50 dead and large amounts of war supplies.

The nearly 500 counterrevolutionaries who entered from the north fled in disarray when they were detected by the EPS, which is still pursuing them in an effort to prevent their return to camps in Honduras.

The newspaper stressed that the CIA's plan to seize control of Nicaraguan territory and to install a counterrevolutionary government there is yet another setback for President Ronald Reagan's avowed plan to destroy the Sandinist people's revolution.

VOICE OF SANDINO REPORTS ARDE MILITARY ACTIONS

Neuvo Leon EPS Post Occupied

PA201744 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 20 Sep 83

[War Bulletin No 70 issued by the Miskito, Sumu, Rama, Sandinist Unity, MISURASATA; the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, MDN; the Sandino Revolutionary Front, FRS; and the Christian Democratic Solidarity Front, FSDC, from the "Nicaraguan mountains, "dated 17 September]

[Text] The General Command of ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] informs the Nicaraguan people and the peoples of the world that:

1. On 8 September, the General Francisco Estrada column of ARDE's armed forces took Neuvo Leon's military post by storm. The military base established there by the pro-soviet army of occupation is near Neuva Guinea.

2. During the exchange of fire, which lasted approximately 30 minutes, our forces occupied the military base, seizing arms and ammunition. The enemy suffered three casualties.

3. We proudly report that, following the fighting, a total of 16 militiamen, displaying genuine Sandinist determination, joined our ranks to fight for a truly pluralist, nationalist, and democratic revolution for the Nicaraguan people. Our forces did not sustain any losses.

4. At 1315 on 14 September, the Domingo Antonio Diaz Giron column, under the command of Companeros Tono and Sordo, ambushed a government motorboat in which two members of the Sandinist People's Army, EPS, were traveling along the San Juan River.

5. The boat was totally destroyed and both members of the EPS were killed. During the ambush, an EPS detachment appeared and opened fire on our squads, which responded immediately and neutralized the EPS attack. The number of enemy casualties could not be determined. Our forces suffered no losses.

6. In September, the month of our independence, the heroic army of our forefathers, which struggled against intervention, is a source of inspiration for us to continue the struggle which they began, the fight for the sovereignty, integrity, and freedom of Nicaragua.

Without totalitarianism, or a return to the past!

Clashes in Southern Zelaya

PA201946 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 20 Sep 83

[War Bulletin No 71 issued by the Miskito, Sumu, Rama Sandinist Unity, MISURASATA; the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, MDN; the Sandino Revolutionary Front, FRS; and the Christian Democratic Solidarity Front, FSDC, from the "Nicaraguan mountains," dated 17 September]

[Text] The General Command of ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] informs the Nicaraguan people and the peoples of the world that:

1. At 0800 on 29 August 1983, the ARDE columns fighting in the southern portion of Zelaya Department under the command of Companero Pedro Rafa clashed violently with the interventionist forces in Rio Maiz and La Cangrejera. Our columns used RPG-7's and rifles to inflict many dead and wounded on the enemy. OUr forces suffered no casualties.

2. On 30 and 31 August, our forces came under air, sea, and ground attack from helicopters, a French-made frigate, and military aircraft, while engaged in violent clashes with the Cuban-Soviet occupation forces. Our positions were bombarded without success.

3. Early on 1 September, our columns clashed again with the ill-named Sandinist People's Army at the place called Spanish Creek, where we dealt the enemy a severe blow; our mortars also did serious damage to the French-made frigate, which was firing at us from the sea. These clashes lasted for 2 more days, along a general front extending from Rio Maiz to La Cangrejera. Fighting also took place along the coast at Rio Maiz, Spanish Creek, Haulover and La Cangrejera, in which the interventionist enemy suffered many casualties.

4. We deeply regret to report the death in combat of Companero Efrain Perez, who died heroically covering the retreat in La Cangrejera with revolutionary courage.

5. On 4 September, we staged an operation to provide our fighting companeros with supplies. Leaving liberated territory [words indistinct] and when we were reaching Haulover, we were again attacked by helicopters and a push-and-pull [in English] combat plane. Our forces responded to the attack with courage and determination, damaging the push-and-pull plane and repelling the attack by the criminal pro-Soviet air force, which was bombarding the area and seriously threatening the civilian population.

6. Our fighting spirit remains high and we are determined to continue our struggle against the Cuban-Soviet interventionists and their local accomplices, whom we will definitely defeat.

Without totalitarianism, or a return to the past!

'Heavy Blows' Promised

PA201801 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Text] The Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, announces that it will deliver additional heavy blows throughout Nicaragua in the next few days.

During this time, the struggle will be intensified on the internal southern front and in all the country's cities. ARDE has passed from the organizational stage to the phase of guerrilla warfare and tactical attacks, without giving up liberated positions.

We call on the heroic Nicaraguan people to begin stockpiling those things which are necessary for survival, because the war will continue and the fatherland is in flames.

We also want to explain to the Nicaraguan people that our fight is against the Soviet and Cuban invaders; our attacks are aimed at purely military objectives and not at civilian targets, contrary to what the nine criminal traitors are trying to make the people believe. We do not have the means of communication to deny their accusations; which is why we are asking you to keep tuned to this station so we can tell you what is really happening in the country.

The morale of our fighters in the Nicaraguan mountains is high as we daily draw nearer to our objective, realizing that our fatherland will very soon be liberated.

MISURASATA LEADER'S REMARKS TO PRESS CITED

Denies Desertions, CIA Aid

PA202021 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0130 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Text] Opposition Miskito leader Steadman Fagoth denied information today that was contained in an article published by THE MIAMI HERALD, to the effect that the anti-Sandinists are deserting and that the CIA is financing the opposition.

Fagoth held a news conference in which he assessed the Nicaraguan situation and denied THE MIAMI HERALD's false reports on the MISURASATA armed forces:

[Begin recording] It is definitely significant that this article was published at the very time when a program of national unity is being discussed, somewhere in Central America, by all the belligerent forces, which are interested in reaching points of coincidence, basic principles of agreement, around which the opposition can unite.

We do not blame Jack Anderson or John Lee Anderson, who claim to have been in contact with us. It is a normal strategy for the fifth estate to indicate that the Sandinists have managed to infiltrate our organizations. [end recording]

Fagoth also referred to the critical economic situation that they are facing and denied that the CIA is helping them. In addition, he made reference to the repression to which thousands of Miskitos are being subjected on the Nicaragua's Atlantic coast:

[Begin recording] Each time the population is relocated, a third of the children and elderly population are affected. Many starve to death, others are emotionally affected, and the majority simply cannot adapt themselves to the new environment. They must walk long distances. They are now being taken to an area near Puerto Cabezas. [end recording]

Guerrilla leader Leon Mora and Ernesto Cesar Segundo, Nicaraguan Democratic Forces Political Commission coordinator, also participated in the news conference.

Opposition Unity Discussed

PA210244 Paris AFP in Spanish 0220 GMT 21 Sep 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 20 Sep (AFP) -- The four main guerrilla groups that are fighting the Nicaraguan Sandinist regime are currently trying to form a single front, opposition leader Steadman Fagoth disclosed in Tegucigalpa today.

For this purpose, leaders of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Nicaragua, and the Indian MISURASATA organization have been meeting for the past 3 days "somewhere in Central America," Fagoth said.

The anti-Sandinist leader said that although the groups have particular interests of their own, "all of the forces understand the need for unity."

Nevertheless, ARDE leaders reiterated in Costa Rica today that ARDE will not participate in any united movement until the FDN "gets rid of its Somozist officers," and warned that any understanding would have to be based on a program for the "democratic recovery of the revolution."

Fagoth, leader of the MISURASATA Indian organization that is fighting in northern Nicaragua, said that firm agreements are being sought that will allow joint action against the Managua regime.

Fagoth stressed that "we have come to realize that isolated we will be unable to advance against such a very powerful enemy as the FSLN."

FDN REPORTS DESTRUCTION OF ARMS CACHE, COMMANDO ACTION

PA152350 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1432 GMT 15 Sep 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 15 Sep (ACAN-EFE) -- The opposition Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) today reported that its demolition groups destroyed an important cache of arms, ammunition, and general logistical supplies, which were intended for the Salvadoran guerrillas.

The war bulletin broadcast by the clandestine radio station 15 September, which was heard in this capital city, indicated that the cache was located on La Pelona Island on the Pacific Coast, northeast of Nicaragua, across from the Cosiguina Peninsula.

In addition, the FDN maintains that several vessels anchored in Cosiguina were blasted with dynamite by commandos retreating from the area. With this operation, a large-scale system for supplying the Salvadoran guerrillas was disrupted.

COMMENTARY ON U.S. POLICY IN CENTRAL AMERICA

FL201740 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1402 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Text] The Reagan administration is increasing its policy of tension in Central America in an effort to silence internal criticism and to develop its plans for a military solution to the problems in the region.

A PRENSA LATINA commentary emphasizes that the Yankee objectives were clearly revealed by Under Secretary of Defense Fred Ikle, who last week called for a military victory rather than a negotiated arrangement in El Salvador.

In an auditorium in Baltimore, the high Pentagon official also said that the United States should prevent the consolidation of the Nicaraguan Government or arrange for its defeat as part of the Yankee plan for Central America.

The commentary states that the importance of Ikle's speech was ignored by THE NEW YORK TIMES, which called it an attack against the opposition in Congress to the growing Yankee military intervention in the region.

Parallel with the attack in Congress against those who oppose Reagan's Central American policy, the United States is trying to cut off access to the country of important spokesmen of the Salvadoran opposition and of the Nicaraguan Government. An example of this is the cancellation of a trip to Washington by a delegation headed by Carlos Nunez, chief of Nicaragua's Council of State, because the White House refused to give permission to the delegation to enter the United States.

At the same time, the CIA has given instructions to its counterrevolutionary groups in Honduras and Costa Rica to increase their attacks against Nicaragua, hence the air bombardments of Managua and the port of Corinto.

These actions, along with the Yankee military maneuvers along the Central American coasts and in Honduras, are unequivocal signals that Reagan is not even minimally interested in peaceful solutions for the region.

'OUR AMERICA' COMMENTARY ON CHILEAN CRISIS

PA201836 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 19 Sep 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Excerpts] Once again it has been proven in Chile that imperialism cannot stop the people's demands for democracy and freedom by using fascist military regimes. The Chilean people have already staged five highly combative protest drives to demand an end to tyranny and a return to a democratic system of government.

The drives staged by those who live in Santiago's slum areas have been particularly heroic. Weary of poverty and hunger, these people are now in a virtual state of domestic rebellion. Roughly a million people live in these areas, where the water and electricity services are practically nonexistent and where those who are not unemployed work for the equivalent of less than $30 per month.

These very people are the target of the fascist military regime's increasingly brutal repression. In the muddy dirt streets of these slum areas, one can still find empty cartridge cases, teargas cans, steel pellets, and plastic bullets, all used by police against the residents of the Chilean capital's outskirts.

However, the Chilean people, especially the majority who comprise the lower income sectors, are unwilling to yield to the regime's threats or repression. With each new drive, they more forcefully reiterate their demands for democracy now and for the tyrant's ouster. The creation of territories that are virtually free of military dictatorship are being seen with increasing frequency in outlying areas. In the view of many political commentators, these developments, as well as the forces achieved by all of the antigovernment demonstrations and the increasing length of the national protest drives, reflect a state of popular rebellion that is further intensifying the political and social crisis currently facing Augusto Pinochet's regime.

RAUL CASTRO NOTES FAR CIVILIAN WORKERS DAY

FL201216 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Text] At the national ceremony commemorating the FAR civilian workers day, which took place at the Military Construction Equipment Production Enterprise, a message was read from Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the party and minister of the FAR. One part of the message states that the FAR feels inspired by the work done by its civilian workers and that it is convinced that together with the rest of our people, these workers will continue to advance in the building and defense of socialism.

The message from the FAR minister was read by Colonel Rafael Morales. It conveys a fraternal greeting from members of the FAR to those who have contributed with their effort and dedication to the FAR's combat readiness. At the ceremony, a group of FAR civilian workers, representing those in provinces and districts, received the (Emilio Barcenas) Award for outstanding work.

SNTC-FAR CIVILIANS MEET MILITIA BUDGET GOAL

FL161254 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1107 GMT 16 Sep 83

[Text] Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, has received from the National FAR Civilian Workers Union [SNTC-FAR] documents confirming the fulfillment of its revenue goals to finance the territorial militia troops. At a meeting held at the Central Committee headquarters, Jose Antonio Roque Arias, secretary general of the union, symbolically delivered 347,911 pesos, representing 105 percent of the goal established by the civilian FAR workers.

Jose Antonio Roque Arias expressed satisfaction and a healthy revolutionary pride in the effort made by the workers who, with the support of the command and the political organizations of the different FAR units, overfulfilled the commitment to finance the MTT [Territorial Militia Troops] and emphasized that they consider it a duty to be the first union to comply with this task. Army General Raul Castro Ruz expressed the gratitude of the party's Central Committee for the work of the FAR civilians.

Afterward, the members of the SNTC-FAR talked with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, who also congratulated them for the success achieved in their contribution to the Territorial Militia Troops.

CARICOM OPENS MEETING OF FINANCE MINISTERS

Trinidad Blasts Partners

FL201950 Bridgetown CANA in English 1926 GMT 20 Sep 83

[By Albert Brandford]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Sept 20, CANA -- Host country Trinidad and Tobago, setting the stage for what could be a bruising battle of wits at a one day Caribbean Community (Caricom) finance ministers' meeting here, today blasted its regional trading partners for alleged breaches of the four-month-old so-called Bridgetown Accord, and hinted broadly at strong counter-measures. But conference chairman Barbados' Prime Minister Tom Adams, while welcoming the "directness, indeed, brutality" of Trinidad and Tobago's junior finance minister, Senator Anthony Jacelon, told Caricom's wealthiest nation to examine its own inefficiencies before apportioning blame for its trade imbalances.

However, these initial broadsides, which seemed to presage a day of long and difficult negotiations aimed at removing nagging bottlenecks in regional free trade, were tempered by a sobering reminder from St Lucia's Prime Minister John Compton, on whose initiative the Bridgetown mini-summit in May was convened, that the destruction of Caricom held grave consequences for all member states. "....When we look at the consequences, the problems are minute in themselves," he said.

The meeting was opened by Caricom Secretary General-designate Roderick Rainford, who expressed concern about the absence of three delegations -- Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, and significantly, Jamaica, whose special Caricom rate of exchange for trade settlements will be one of the focal discussion points. Other key areas will be the knotty problem of import licensing regimes, the Regional Energy Action Plan, and the creation of a regional stabilisation fund.

Senator Jacelon, standing in for Prime Minister George Chambers, said that the Bridgetown Accord, which includes agreement, among other things, on strict adherence to the rules that dictate which Caricom-made goods would qualify for regional duty-free treatment, has been scrupulously followed by Trinidad and Tobago, which has found that the reciprocity it has been seeking has not always been forthcoming."

"Moreover, he said, while notice had been served as recently as the last Council of Ministers' meeting that Trinidad and Togabo would take firm action against any goods found to be in error of the rules of origin, these warnings seem not to have been heeded. Attempts, he said, had been made to ship goods of dubious origin into Trinidad as though they came from a Caricom country, and further, Trinidad and Tobago has been faced with the unique request for payment for such goods in non-regional currencies.

Senator Jacelon said the effect of this combined "assault" on the Trinidad market has been dwindling sales of local goods in the region as well as on the domestic market, which has resulted in a catastrophic drop in export earnings and a dramatic rise in the value of imports from the region.

He said that in spite of the evidence and mounting trade union pressure, Trinidad has been reluctant to resort to the umbrella of the Caricom agreement to deal with these problems.

But he warned: "We wish to assure delegates that our restraint in resorting to those provisions has been motivated by the highest consideration for the problems of our Caricom brethren, but the time may well be approaching when we may be unable to respond as effectively to our neighbours' problems."

Prime Minister Adams contended that Senator Jacelon, without saying so, had made it clear that the future of Caricom as a trading entity was at stake. However, he reminded delegates that Trinidad's main complaint -- that it was the victim of persistent re-labelling by regional "producers" -- was not confined to those who wanted to "gang-up" on Trinidad.

"I believe that at an earlier meeting there was a somewhat dramatic exhibition of this when the minister of trade in Barbados was wearing a shirtjac suit which had been bought in Trinidad, of which the trousers said: 'Made in Trinidad' and the jacket said: 'Jacs by Simpson's of London.'"

Adams said all would agree that ways and means must be found to end arguments about the rules of origin. But he felt that the question was much wider, since all member states have had to live with balance-of-payments difficulties and problems of being importing economies, whereas Trinidad, after a decade of being cushioned by petroleum exports, has now come to understand that it is an importing economy and imports tend to rise to balance the volume of exports in all but a few of the petroleum exporting economies of the world. "Trinidad and Tobago is therefore beginning to experience the problems that the financial management of the rest of Caricom had to deal with on a daily basis," he said.

The Barbados leader said he understood the worries of Trinidad, but cautioned against too hasty a solution to such problems. He suggested, however, that: "Caricom and unfair trading practices cannot possibly explain more than a tiny percentage of Trinidad's adverse balance-of-payments condition of physical trade other than petroleum."

Adams cited as an example the manufacture of office furniture. Ten years ago, Trinidad used to be Barbados' main source, but now Bridgetown has become substantial suppliers to Port-of-Spain, caused, he said, by a "shift in efficiency in furniture manufacturing from Trinidad to Barbados."

"I, therefore, would counsel the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to examine its own efficiency before it blames movements in the balance of trade on Caricom and the behaviour of Caricom manufacturers," Adams said. He added that Trinidad has long enjoyed a favourable balance of trade with Barbados, but no one ever suggested that the balance of trade between Barbados and its neighbours should be zero.

"And I would very respectfully suggest that this solution would only lead us down the road to ultimate destruction of Caricom, because such a solution cannot be imposed without imposing physical or other restrictions not contemplated within the Caricom agreement, as would destroy the spirit of Caricom," Adams said.

However, Prime Minister Compton, while agreeing with the usefulness of frank discussions, called for a spirit of "give-and-take" in the negotiations in order to preserve the community. He said there could be no question of taking action against each other.

"When we look back on the Caribbean 10 years ago, we will see the enormous advantages all of us have gained from the creation of this free trade area," he said. "There can be no denial, there can be no turning back, there can be no dismantling. The agony would be too great, the repercussions would be too severe, and the social and economic disorders it will create will be too much for our societies to withstand."

Barbados Prime Minister Responds

FL202340 Bridgetown CANA in English 2217 GMT 20 Sep 83

[By Albert Brandford]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Sept 20, CANA -- Barbados, reacting to a Trinidad and Tobago threat to take steps to protect its market from alleged unfair trading practices, today warned the fellow Caribbean Community (Caricom) state against jeopardising the 10-year-old free trade system.

Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams, who today chaired a one day session of Caricom finance ministers to discuss the latest obstacles to free trade, said Barbados would regret if the wealthiest Caricom territory were, in the interest of a small industry whose activities could only be marginal to those of its economy, to seek to impose physical restrictions on Caricom which could only be marginally justifiable.

"It may be that there is some need for a common protective policy within Caricom;" he said, "it may be that there is need to establish, not only a common external tariff (but) common provisions for quota restrictions and other physical restrictions on third party trade."

However, he stressed that such a need would have to be established at a meeting at which it was part of the agenda where it could be thought out properly and at which there could be a consensus on such common protection.

Adams said: It cannot be established ad hoc and for the needs of one of the Caricom countries. It would have to extend over a much wider range, for example, garments.

His comments came on the heels of a warning by Senator Anthony Jacelon, Trinidad and Tobago's minister in the Ministry of Finance, that his country may resort to the provisions of the Caricom Agreement to protect its markets from unscrupulous regional companies relabelling foreign manufactured goods and passing them off here duty free as made in Caricom.

Prime Minister Adams said there would have to be a general approach to such a policy and it would have to extend to agricultural produce.

"It would not be possible for us in Barbados to hear an argument that our negative list for garments is inadequate compared to that in other counties (with) which our agricultural producers have only one competitor in their Caricom exports, and that is the exporters of Miami", he said.

Giving voice to fears that implementation of Trinidad and Tobago's threat could lead to the break-up of the Caricom trading system, Adams said Barbados had the most to lose from a breakdown of Caricom trade.

"It cannot now be a matter which the Barbados Government can conceal that our exports have become the most efficient in Caricom," he said.

He added that there had been hesitation to say so in the past for fear of giving offence, but figures were available and Barbados' 65 million (U.S.) balance in the Caricom Multilateral Clearing Facility -- a now suspended government-to-government credit scheme for facilitating intra-regional trade payments -- was further evidence.

We recognise that if Caricom were to break down, and we were to tell Trinidad to keep their markets (with the corollary, of course, that Trinidad would not expect to have any access to the Barbados market, limited though it is) that we would have the greatest adjustment to make," Adams said.

He added: But we would warn that there is a point beyond which you cannot expect to shake a regional asociation such as ours in your own advantage to the disadvantage of other members.

The Barbados leader reminded delegates that Caricom was set up to allow free trade within the region"....if physical barriers to that trade have to be imposed by the country with the largest market, every member would have to think himself free to make what arrangements it could to protect its own best interest for the future."

In Barbados, we are seeking to diversify our import targets and to some extent, this may give some relief to Trinidad, he said. We have heard so many threats in the last year or two years that we understand that it would be unwise for us to believe that other countries within Caricom would long be able to tolerate the dominance of Barbados' exporters. I hope very much that our manufacturers and exporters have understood what I have been telling them privately for a very long time in this regard.

Adams said diversification to third country markets would give some ease to Trinidad. In garments, Barbados had reached the stage where it cannot much longer hold off the challenge from St Lucia and Antigua and Barbuda in its own markets.

Barbadian manufacturers, he added, were being dissuaded from seeking to supply the Trinidad market in any mean and selfish way.

However, he hoped tht such developments would offer an amicable solution to the problems which Trinidad envisages threatening it from Caricom, particularly from Barbados, in the future.

ST KITTS-NEVIS

SIMMONDS SETS GOALS, ANNOUNCES TRAVEL PLANS

FL202020 Bridgetown CANA in English 1909 GMT 20 Sep 83

[Trevor Yearwood]

[Text] Basseterre, St Kitts, Sept 20, CANA — The Federation of St Kitts and Nevis is hoping to reduce its food import bill by 15 million East Caribbean dollars (one E.C. dollar -- 37 cents U.S.) over the next five years, Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds said today.

"Our total budget is about 60 million dollars," Dr Simmonds reported during his first news conference after being sworn in as prime minister of the former British Associated State yesterday. "Our food import bill is about half of that. I would certainly like to halve that within the next five years."

The effort to reduce food imports is part of an overall plan to grow more food on the two small Caribbean islands, which formally ended more than 300 years of British rule yesterday.

It involves using some marginal sugar lands, some acquired by the government under a controversial 1974 act. That acquisition was rejected by the high court here after a case was brought by the land owners, and the government later lost its appeal before the West Indies Associated States Court of Appeal.

The Government and the land owners are still negotiating, with Dr Simmonds saying it "intends to settle that matter very shortly."

At the news conference, Dr Simmonds made the following disclosures: He will be leaving here Thursday for talks with officials of the World Bank in Washington, and to address the United Nations on Friday. The address to the UN, of which St Kitts and Nevis is the newest member, will partly deal with world peace and international conflicts, including the question of independence for Namibia (South West Africa).

Dr Simmonds will attend the Commonwealth leaders' meeting set for New Delhi, India, in November, will visit Taiwan later this year, and is expected to make a trip to South Korea.

St Kitts and Nevis welcomes the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), the United States multi-million dollar trade, aid, and investment package for Caribbean and Central American states, Dr Simmonds said, but would have preferred to see a more direct aid component included.

"There is much more that we need to do here in terms of developing our infrastructure," Dr Simmonds remarked.

"I think that the trade and investment aspects of the CBI are useful and could be helpful, but I think it will take some time for us to realise the benefits.

"We will be working in the area of investment promotion and trying as quickly as we can to maximise the possible benefits in setting up investments in St Kitts and Nevis for making use of the American market."

St Kitts/Nevis plans to strengthen its relations with Caribbean Community (Caricom) member countries, and this is reflected in the appointment of Richard Caines as the twin island state's first minister of Caricom affairs.

The government has no plan to significantly increase the national debt. "I think the main area in which we are seeking to borrow at this time is to settle the long vexed question of the purchase of the former sugar estate lands," the prime minister told reporters.

"These lands form about 70 per cent of the arable land in the country and are in fact now under the control of the government for the conduct of the sugar industry."